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6

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Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

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Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

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Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



Cory Honored

Thousands of Filipinos lined up for hours Sunday to see the body of former President Corazon Aquino.

ASIA...Page 16

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US economy appears poised to start growing again

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—At long last,

the worst recession in America since World War II appears on the verge of ending.

The economy dipped only slightly in

the second quarter of this year—falling at a 1 percent annual pace, better than expected. And many analysts think the economy is starting to grow again in the

current quarter, setting up a long-awaited recovery.

Still, any rebound is likely to be re-

See US on Page 4

DPS traffic citations under investigation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the Department of Public Safety's issuance and reporting of traffic citations is under investigation over allegations that some police officers do not report traffic citations issued to motorists.

In one particular week, for example, at least 20 traffic citations were issued but only six or seven were actually reported.

The investigation has been going on for weeks, but the administration has yet to report on the findings of the probe.

See DPS on Page 4

Seven more candidates file in third week

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Seven individuals have filed their candidacies in the third week of the filing schedule, boosting to 50 the total number of registered contenders in the Nov. 7 general election.

Robert Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, said Friday the latest on the candidates' list include Paterno Hocog, who will run for a Senate seat on Rota; Ross

See CANDIDATES on Page 4

Youth Congress holds final session



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of the CNMI 11th Youth Congress led by Speaker Alana Leon Guerrero, seated center, and Floor Leader John A. Ayuu, seated right, pose for a group photo on Saturday morning shortly after postponing for another hour their final session due to a lack of quorum in the House of Representatives chamber on Capitol Hill. When the session resumed with 12 members present, the youth senators passed two resolutions and one bill.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Despite its failure to get a quorum for its scheduled morning session, the 11th Youth Congress successfully held its *sine die* [final session] Saturday noon when two members came in at the last minute, allowing the 12 youth senators

present to move the agenda forward.

The Youth Congress has 23 members but only 12 are on island while the rest are pursuing studies abroad.

By a unanimous vote, the youth leaders adopted two resolutions and a bill.

Offered by youth senator Donnie R. Dosalua, Youth Congress bill 11-04 intends to increase the penalties

and license fees for businesses that sell tobacco.

According to the youth senators, this was a result of the alarming record of youths who use tobacco and the "very lax" enforcement of the law that prohibits the sale and consumption of tobacco products among minors.

See YOUTH on Page 4

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By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Saipan Zoning Office reduced by 73 percent the backlog of pending permit applications in the past six weeks, according to administrator Victor Barrett. At the same, the zoning office said it has significantly improved its processing system.

Barrett said the Commonwealth Zoning Board recorded 262 permits waiting for review by zoning officers upon assuming office on June 22, 2009. Since then, Barrett said, they have cut this down to just 70.

He said they have also processed a total of 388 new applications, with over 300 new permits issued to business and property owners now in compliance with the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law.

A bill pending in the House of Representatives seeks to suspend the Saipan zoning law for six months. Rep. Stanley Torres filed the bill, saying local businesses and zoning clients are presently encountering issues relating to the implementation of the new regulations that he said "appear to have been unintended."

The new law took effect on Dec. 5, 2008.

Barrett said, however, that suspending the law at this point would be unfair to the hundreds of businesses that have followed the code and to those that are planning new projects under the current law.

Reporting on the gains the zoning board made in the past six weeks, Barrett said all the permit applications are immediately reviewed and streamlined.

"Previously, the process for getting zoning approval for businesses wishing to renew or open new businesses in existing buildings required applicants to fill out three forms up to six pages in length," Barrett explained.

Now, it takes only one form, "with no more than a page and half of information required of applicants."

Barrett said majority of new and existing businesses, even home businesses, can be cleared for a business license by Zoning on the same day.

He said that when he officially took over the position, there was a large backlog of pending requests due to the departure of staff and resignation of the former administrator, which left only two zoning officers to deal with new applications and all administrative duties.

The Zoning Office now has three full time zoning officers: Marian Mafnas, Anicia Tomokane, and Dewayne Duenas, in addition to administrative processor Bing Taitano and the office's planner, Therese Ogunoro.

Barrett said he depends on the island's businesses to help create a more workable and adaptable code. The zoning board is seeking input from all interested business owners. Call 287-5221,

or contact Barrett via e-mail at victor.barrett@zoning.mp.gov.

Bill to suspend zoning law is ready for action

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres's House Local Bill 16-39, which seeks to suspend the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law, is now ready for the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's action after meeting a law's provision that a local bill go through three regular sessions and a 30-day comment period by the island's mayor.

House Clerk Evelyn C. Fleming transmitted for delegation action a copy of the local bill, addressed to delegation chair Rep. Ramon A Tebuteb.

Torres (R-Saipan) said he's happy with the support that his bill has been getting, including that of Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela.

But the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation has yet to schedule a session.

"I am looking forward to the delegation session. Those I consider opposed to the suspension are Zoning administrator Mr. Victor Barrett and at least two members of the Zoning Board because the board members are protecting their castle," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

He said the Zoning Law is not only "very costly to comply with," but also "confusing."

"I am not entirely against it, but I want it to be made simple and affordable to follow," he said.

In a statement, Zoning administrator Victor Barrett said that while there have been difficulties and, in some cases, flawed interpretation of the Saipan zoning law, throwing out the whole zoning code yet again would be a waste for the community and send investors the wrong message.

"The island has gained valuable experience over the short 16 months that zoning has been in place. Significant time, effort, and money have been invested in the process. We should not say it's too hard and just give up," he said.

The Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 took effect on Dec. 5, 2008.

Torres's bill seeks to suspend the law for six months.

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NMC opts not to renew department chair's contract

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the key departments at the Northern Marianas College will start the new semester without its chief after Mark Haag's employment contract expired and was not renewed by the administration.

Haag, chairperson of the Language Arts and Humanities Department, has worked at the college for six years, first as a teacher for four years before becoming department chairperson. He now has only until Aug. 13 at his post.

Haag was served his notice of nonrenewal on July 13. He appealed the decision a little over five days after receiving the notice.

Haag on Friday confirmed his imminent departure from the college, saying the first thing he needs to accomplish now is to pull out his kids from private schools and find a new job on island.

Under NMC policy, the management is not obliged to explain its reasons for not renewing employment contracts—a concern that has been raised in the past by members of the college faculty.

Saipan Tribune learned that Haag, on July 25, filed a notice of appeal and formal grievance with the Board of Regents over the decision of college president Dr. Carmen Fernandez not to renew his contract despite positive evaluation from his supervisor and students.

"While it is not necessary to provide reasons for non-renewal, I contend that there was a reason for my non-renewal. I was not renewed because Dr. Fernandez was retaliating because I filed two

formal grievances against her. I filed them because that was the proper procedure to get a grievance heard," Haag's letter to the regents said, adding that none of his grievances were heard.

It was disclosed that on June 16, 2009, Haag was reprimanded by the college for allegedly mishandling the personnel action on Hiroko Yakasuta, the Japanese instructor who was not renewed and who had filed a grievance against the management.

Haag explained that the reprimand letter, signed by then dean Debra Cabrera, was issued at the insistence of the NMC president.

"To begin with, department chairs have minimal say in the hiring and firing process. The department chair identifies a need to the dean and the dean investigates the need and works with the HRO to determine the action and its timing," Haag's letter to the regents states.

He said his response to the letter of reprimand precipitated the nonrenewal of his contract and was the reason for Fernandez's retaliation.

"Nonrenewal requires no reason, but using that provision to retaliate is not legal," Haag said.

He urged the regents to act, as his family has been adversely affected by the president's "capricious" action.

NMC responded to Haag's letter of appeal on July 31, saying the situation cannot be appealed.

"If the college decision is not to execute a new contract for another period of employment, that decision cannot be appealed," NMC's response stated, adding that

Haag's filing was late in the permissible timeframe under the policy, which is within five days of the receipt of a nonrenewal notice.

Haag expressed Friday his disappointment with the decision.

He said that in his six years stay at NMC, he can say that he has done a good job for the students and was successful in implementing many improvements to the department's programs.

He said his biggest worry now is the hiring of less qualified people for the department.

More than 30 classes are being conducted under Haag's department on a daily basis.

NMC has yet to issue a statement on the matter Friday.

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DPS*From Page 1*

"I was made aware that there were some traffic citations like 15 one week, and then another 20 the following week, but when they checked, only six or seven were actually reported," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Zero tolerance

The governor also said he instructed

CANDIDATES*From Page 1*

Manglona, who will vie for a House seat on Rota; Eusebio Manglona for Rota's municipal council; and Victor Hocog who wants to run for the municipal mayor seat.

Former Education Board chair Roman Benavente also filed with the commission his petition to become a certified candidate for mayor of Saipan as an independent contender.

Incumbent congressman Justo Quittuaga has decided to run for higher office, filing his candidacy to become a

Public Safety Commissioner Santiago "Sandy" Tudela to not tolerate police mischief and abuses, referring to the July 25 arrest of a police officer allegedly involved in a burglary who used a police patrol car as a getaway vehicle.

"I was on Guam when that happened. When I came back, I told Sandy, the police commissioner, zero tolerance. Let's not even sit on it, let alone sleep on it," Fitial said.

Days after the arrest of Police Officer Florencio Richards, the DPS commis-

sioner said he feels bad that a police officer who should have been trusted by the public was the first to break the law. Richards is now suspended without pay and, if found guilty, would be immediately terminated from service.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said DPS has been cleaning its ranks, citing, for example, the arrest in 2008 of a police sergeant involved in an insurance scam.

"This is a successful example of DPS resolving issues like that, which

has never happened before," he said.

In 2008, Police Sgt. Hillary Tagabuel admitted forging a total of 41 traffic crash reports to collect from an insurance firm. He was charged in an insurance scam along with other individuals.

Under the scheme, the average payout by the insurance companies were anywhere between \$8,000 and \$25,000 per traffic crash report, and the police sergeant was allegedly being paid anywhere between \$150 and \$200 per forged report.

In March this year, Police Officer John K. Wabol was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

In November 2008, Police Officer Nick Leon Guerrero was arrested for allegedly firing his personal gun and assaulting his brother in Garapan. He was later released.

Police Sgt. Steve M. Mendiola was arrested in November 2007 for allegedly pointing a gun at his common-law wife and threatening to kill her outside a karaoke establishment in Rota.

general election.

Guerrero said the commission must send in advance the absentee materials to enable it to receive all the ballots on election day.

Since the registered voters count jumped to about 14,600 to date, Guerrero said they are expecting to exceed the target of 15,000 by the time the November election comes around.

As of last week, absentee ballot applications received by the commission totaled 130. Ballots to be printed is about 18,000.

As of Friday, only one popular initiative is so far sure of being included in the November polls.

YOUTH*From Page 1*

Bills passed by the Youth Congress are not binding but are recommendation in nature. Adopted bills are forwarded to the Legislature for possible introduction.

During deliberation, the members expressed optimism that CNMI lawmakers will consider adopting the legislation to help address the problem of smoking among minors.

From the existing \$1,000 fine for

any person who violates the law, youth senators want it increased to \$2,500 and to require 350 hours of community service instead of just 250 hours.

For the business license fees, youth leaders approved collecting \$500 for a wholesale agent's license and \$250 each for general licenses and distributors.

Under Dosala's proposed bill, business establishments that commit a first offense of selling tobacco to minors will pay a minimum fine \$1,000 and suspension of license for three months; second-time offenders

will get a \$3,000 fine and six-month suspension of license; third-time offenders will get a \$5,000 fine and a year's suspension of business operation. Fourth-time offenders will have their licenses revoked.

Meantime, any person found to be engaged in the sale, distribution or transfer of tobacco products without a valid license shall be made to pay a \$2,500 fine per business establishment.

Youth senator Annie Camacho also offered a resolution congratulating Saipan International School's Boys Basketball Team for their success in the

Coalition of Private Schools Basketball League for school year 2008-2009.

Members also extended their sincerest appreciation to the presiding officers and members of the Legislature for their assistance and support to the Youth Congress throughout the term.

"As members of the Youth Congress, we were privileged to learn firsthand the role and responsibilities of a lawmaker and the Legislature opened their doors and assisted the members in their need and role as leaders of their peers," they said in a resolution.

Speaker Alana May Leon Guerrero, in her message to colleagues, extended her appreciation for the active involvement of the team in community programs and youth-oriented activities, saying they reached a great number of teens and students on three islands.

The outgoing youth speaker told *Saipan Tribune* that she is very proud of all her achievements in the three terms she served the CNMI Youth Congress.

Each 12 senators also expressed their personal messages and highlighted their accomplishments throughout their terms.

US*From Page 1*

strained by consumers' reluctance to spend. Stressed by rising unemployment, smaller paychecks and shrunken nest eggs, Americans spent less in the second quarter. Without the full strength of consumer spending, which supplies more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, businesses would need to deliver more of the firepower for sustained growth.

Economists say they are hopeful that consumers, aided by the "cash for clunkers" program to boost car sales, eventually will nudge up spending. Over time, that would help stem a still-heavy wave of job losses and stimulate hiring.

"We won't have a recovery as long as we keep losing jobs," President Barack Obama acknowledged Friday.

He added: "Eventually, businesses will start growing again and will start hiring again, and that's when it will truly feel like a recovery to the American people."

The small drop in gross domestic product for the April-to-June period, reported Friday by the Commerce Department, followed a dizzying free fall in the first three months of this year. The economy plunged at an annual rate of 6.4 percent in the first quarter, the worst in nearly three decades.

Including the April-to-June period, the economy has now contracted for a record four straight quarters, for the first time on record dating to 1947. Over that period, companies and ordi-

nary Americans have suffered a painful toll, with job losses still exceeding a net total of 400,000 each month.

Many economists had predicted a slightly worse 1.5 percent annualized contraction in second-quarter GDP, which is considered the best gauge of U.S. economic health. GDP measures the value of all goods and services—everything from cars, clothes and computers to makeup, manicures and machinery—produced in the United States.

"The recession seems to be largely over with at this point," said economist Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors. "We still have a long way to go to get back to full health."

Behind the better second-quarter performance were other signs of a fading recession: less drastic spending cuts by businesses, a resumption of federal and local government spending and an improved trade picture.

Businesses did end up cutting their stockpiles of goods at a record pace in the second quarter, but that carries



In this June 3, 2009 photo, Baldor Electric Co. employees Dave Johnston, left, and Steve Davis, right, work inside the company's factory in St. Louis. A new government report shows the economy sank at a pace of just 1 percent in the second quarter of the year. It was a better-than-expected showing that provided the strongest signal yet that the longest recession since

a silver lining. With their inventories at rock-bottom, businesses will likely need to ramp up production to meet customer demand. That would stim-

ulate the economy starting in the current quarter.

Some economists think growth in the July-to-September quarter could be more vigorous than previously forecast—possibly 3 percent annual growth or higher.

Obama's stimulus package of tax cuts and increased government spending provided some support to the economy in the second quarter. But it will have more impact in the second half of this year as it extends its reach, economists said.

In the meantime, the damage caused by this recession runs deep.

The figures released Friday provide the most compelling evidence to date that the current recession has been the worst since the Great Depression. It has taken a 3.9 percent bite out of economic activity so far, said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's

Economy.com. Before this downturn, the most painful hit came in the 1957-58 recession, when GDP fell 3.8 percent, he said.

And in revisions to GDP figures that

stretch back to the Great Depression, the Commerce Department now estimates the economy grew just 0.4 percent in 2008. That's much weaker than the 1.1 percent growth the government had earlier estimated.

Even if the recession ends later this year, the job market will remain weak. Companies are expected to keep cutting payroll through the rest of this year.

The Fed says unemployment—now at a 26-year high of 9.5 percent—will top 10 percent at the end of this year. Businesses won't likely boost hiring until they're certain the recovery has staying power.

In the second quarter, businesses—including home builders—continued to cut spending, though not nearly as much as they had earlier. That's one reason the economy didn't contract as much as feared.

Consumers retreated en masse. They sliced spending at a rate of 1.2 percent in the second quarter, after having nudged up purchases at a 0.6 percent pace in the first quarter. In large part, that's because wages and salaries have fallen for the past three quarters.

With people spending less, Americans' savings rate rose sharply—to 5.2 percent in the second quarter, the highest since 1998.

As important as savings is, many economists wish that consumers would save less and spend more right now to help propel the recovery.

"I'm praying, 'God, please don't encourage American households to save a lot more just yet,'" said Niranjan Behravesh, chief economist at IHS Global Insight.

Audit cites govt's weak financial controls, \$256.3M deficit

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An independent audit report identified at least 18 deficiencies involving the CNMI government's internal control over its financial reporting, majority of which have already been identified in previous audits and have remained unfixed.

The report, prepared by independent auditing firm Deloitte & Touche LLC, also pointed to an increase of 17.5 percent in the unreserved fund deficit to \$256.3 million in Fiscal Year 2008 compared to 2007.

An example of control deficiencies involved over \$2.9 million held by the CNMI government in monies received for bail, restitution, child support and other related funds received in a fiduciary capacity but the Division of Treasury is not a signatory to the related bank accounts, which could result in unrecorded bank accounts.

"We recommend that all bank accounts be established through the Division of Treasury unless legislation requires otherwise. This matter was discussed in our previous letters dated June 27, 2008, June 18, 2007, and June 16, 2006," Deloitte & Touche said in an attachment to the CNMI's audited financial statement for FY 2008.

Other examples of control deficiencies include wrong posting

to the proper revenue account of collections, recording of expenditures in the wrong fiscal year, and lack of documentation and timely investigation of cash overages and shortages.

No recovery in sight

At the same time, acting Finance Secretary Robert A. Schrack, in an analysis of the government's audited financial statement, said the CNMI's total net deficiency increased by \$41.1 million to a net deficiency position of \$120.3 million, representing an increase of some 51.9 percent from the net deficiency position at the beginning of FY 2008.

The \$41.1 million increase in net deficiency resulted from the difference between the CNMI's total revenues of \$281.2 million and total expenses of \$322.3 million in FY 2008.

Schrack said economic factors continue to play a large role in developing the tax and other revenue budgets for the general fund.

"The local economy, still slowed by the effects of a drop in tourism and the decline of the garment industry, has continued to follow trend of decreasing revenues. The prospects for fiscal year 2009 appear similar, with not much recovery in sight," he said.

Internal control

Deloitte & Touche, in a June 15 letter to Schrack, said the

auditing firm considers the CNMI's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the CNMI's internal control over financial reporting.

However, the auditing firm wished to bring these control deficiencies to the attention of the CNMI Department of Finance.

For example, during tests of cash receipts of the Commonwealth Health Center, Deloitte & Touche noted seven instances wherein the medical fees billed did not match the supporting fee schedules.

"The fee schedule is either not updated or the billing system does not reflect the revised medical fees," said the auditing firm, recommending that CHC ensure that changes to medical and other related fees are communicated and documented in a timely manner.

A deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis.

In another case, Deloitte & Touche recommended that all cashier deposit reconciliation

summary reports be examined by a supervisor or by Treasury personnel independent of the cashiering function.

This, after the auditing firm found that four cashier deposit reconciliation summary reports on Tinian in 2008 and 36 transactions at the Department of Labor in 2007 and 2008 did not indicate evidence of review of verification by a supervisor or personnel independent of the cashiering function.

During tests of purchases/disbursements, the invoice date for five purchases/disbursements preceded the date of purchase order approval.

"We recommend that the CNMI ensure that expenditures are approved prior to incurrence. This matter was discussed in our previous letter dated June 27, 2008," Deloitte & Touche said.

The firm also recommends that Finance ensure that expenditures are recorded in the correct fiscal year and investigate longstanding payables and ensure they are valid.

In another example, CHC receivables from the Workers Compensation Commission of \$110,560 did not agree with the balance confirmed by WCC of \$0.

"Reconciliation was not available to account for the difference. The difference was not considered material to the financial statements. We recommend CHC perform receivable reconciliations. This matter was discussed in our previous letter dated June 27, 2008," Deloitte & Touche said.

The firm also recommends Finance ensure that all encumbrances are supported by encumbering documents.

Other matters

Deloitte & Touche also identified 18 other matters involving the CNMI's internal control over financial reporting that it wished to bring to Finance's attention, including missing 12 of 28 declaration of entry collections from the Division of Customs in June 2008.

As a result, the auditing firm was unable to verify if the forms were reviewed by an officer from Customs. It recommends Customs to ensure that daily cash reports and relevant customs documents re-filed and maintained.

Also missing or not provided were the carbon copy of cancelled check image on the bank statement of 46 checks. Each check amounted to anywhere between \$150 and \$972,806.

As of Sept. 30, 2008, the general fund had a fully allowed outstanding receivable from the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission totaling over \$3.1 million. This balance should have been paid in full during FY 2001.

Deloitte & Touche recommends Finance to ensure that receivables are collected in accordance with established repayment plans. This matter, according to the auditing firm, was discussed in its previous letters and reports on the internal control over financial reporting from 2002 to 2008.

Kilili offers condolences on Aquino's death

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) on Friday issued the following statement upon learning of the death of former Philippine President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino:

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NMI gets \$57K to clean up underground petroleum leaks

HONOLULU—In an effort to protect people where they live, work, and play, EPA announced the distribution of \$57,000 to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to assess and clean up underground storage tank petroleum leaks.

The greatest potential hazard from a leaking underground storage tank is that the petroleum or other hazardous substances seep into the soil and contami-

nate groundwater, the source of drinking water for nearly one-third of all Americans.

"We're providing immediate growth opportunities for communities across the nation, as well as long-term protection from dangerous pollution in the land and water," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "EPA is putting people to work by serving our core mission of protecting human health and the environment."

"The Recovery Act is ac-

celerating the cleanup of many abandoned leaking underground storage tank sites that pose a threat to our limited groundwater resources," said Laura Yoshii, acting regional administrator for the U.S. EPA's Pacific Southwest region. "These cleanups will protect our valuable groundwater supplies, while creating green jobs that will improve our economy."

This money is part of \$197 million appropriated under the

Recovery Act to address shovel-ready sites nationwide contaminated by petroleum from leaking underground storage tanks. The funds will be used for overseeing assessment and cleanup of leaks from underground storage tanks or directly paying for assessment and cleanup of leaks from federally regulated tanks where the responsible party is unknown, unwilling or unable to finance, or the cleanup is an emergency response.

The EPA regional under-

ground storage tank program is entering into a cooperative agreement with the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality. The cooperative agreement will include more detailed descriptions of island spending plans.

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on February 17, 2009, and has directed that the Recovery Act be implemented with unprecedented transparency and accountability. To that end, the American people can visit Recovery.gov to see how every dollar is being invested. (PR-EPA)

New housing program for low-income families now underway

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n.rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Home buyers with low to very low income will soon be able to avail of a new housing program with a loan as low as \$1,000 to as high as \$40,000 as part of the home funds allocated each year to the CNMI by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. recently issued a public notice of emergency regulations and notice of intent to adopt homeownership investment partnership program policies and procedures for homeowner rehabilitation and homebuyers.

NMHC said this emergency

home program regulation requires immediate adoption and implementation for the CNMI to avail of the funds, with the main goal of encouraging, promoting, and providing decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing.

Acting CNMI Attorney General Gregory Baka signed the regulations on July 15, which means the regulations would be effective by Aug. 15 after a 30-day notice to the public.

Eligible low-to-very-low income families would be provided with assistance in the form of low-interest or non-interest bearing loans or direct grants for rehabilitation and repair and for the purchase and construction of their homes.

According to the new regulations, homeowner rehabilitation assistance includes those items necessary to bring the home in compliance with health and safety housing codes, including the reduction of lead-based paint hazards.

It also includes remedial methods for other home health hazards.

Applicants must qualify as low-income family as defined under the Homeownership Investment Partnership Program (HOME Program).

The dwelling must be completed and the family is in residence before the owner applies for rehabilitation assistance.

The applicant must occupy and continue to occupy the house after the completion of the repairs or renovation.

The minimum loan amount allowable under this program is \$1,000 to a maximum of \$40,000.

HOME loan funds may not be used for projects that exceed the maximum loan amount.

However, in circumstances where the borrower is able to deposit the difference with NMHC before loan closing and he/she is still at or below the debt-to-income ratio, the borrower may still be eligible for assistance.

NMHC has three target groups: the elderly or disabled families with income between zero to 30 percent of the area's median income; low-income families with limited financial resources whose income fall between 50.1 percent to 60 percent of the area's median income; and low-income families with limited financial assistance whose income fall between 60.1 to 80 percent of the area's median income.

HANMI elects new chairman, directors

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands elected Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa as chairman during its monthly membership meeting on Friday, July 30.

Members also elected Pacific Islands Club general manager Kieran Daly and Saipan Grand Hotel general manager Ed Cho to the board of directors.

The elections fill vacancies left by last month's resignation of former chairwoman Lynn Knight and the departure of for-

mer director and Saipan World Resort general manager Hong-chul Shin earlier this year.

"This is a very difficult time for our industry, but we will continue to work with the government, our tourism partners and the community to face our challenges, including the uncertainties of immigration federalization and the decline of visitor arrivals," said Nishikawa.

"HANMI members are committed to maintaining our high level of service and to helping ensure our guests leave with

"Lynn has been instrumental in representing our membership in government and community initiatives, facilitating the development of policies and procedures, and providing informed leadership," said Nishikawa. "We appreciate all she has done on behalf of the industry."

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, HANMI has 13 members. (PR-HANMI)

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CANDIDATES' FORUM

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, addresses the audience while other gubernatorial candidates wait for their turn to answer questions in Friday's candidate forum organized by the 11th Youth Congress at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. From left, Fitial, Dr. David Borja, who is representing Ramon "Kumoi" Guerrero, Rep. Heinz S. Hofsneider, and Juan "Pan" Guerrero.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Bill eyes Monument Visitors Center

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has introduced legislation that authorizes a Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Visitors Center in the Northern Mariana Islands. The bill instructs the Secretary of the Interior to locate the facility in the NMI to inform the public about the Monument and provide a base for research.



Sablan

"Establishing a Visitors Center here holds true to the promises made to the Northern Marianas regarding the Marine National Monument," said Sablan. "The Visitors Center will be an important way for people of the Northern Marianas to benefit from this world-class environmental resource and will make the remote Monument more accessible to visitors and residents alike."

Sablan's bill does not specify exactly where the Center will be located in the Northern Marianas.

"It could be Rota, or Tinian, or Saipan," he said. "It will be up to the Secretary of the Interior—with ample consultation with the local government—to decide the best location to fulfill the purposes of the Visitors Center."

Among those purposes are public education regarding the natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources of the Monument.

"The goal is to have a Visitors Center where science, education, and culture come together to protect and conserve our natural resources," Sablan said.

The Marianas Trench Marine National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation on Jan. 6, 2009. The Monument includes the three northernmost islands in the Marianas archipelago and portions of the Marianas Trench,

the deepest ocean on Earth. The Monument stretches over 12,000 square miles of land and sea.

"Because the Monument is so large and remote from the populated islands I imagine that the Visitors Center will have to have exhibits that bring the experience of the Monument to people using innovative technologies," Sablan said. "For instance, there could be remote cameras established at the undersea thermal vents that would allow visitors to see the unique life-forms that live in those harsh and unusual conditions."

The Champagne Vent located at Eifuku submarine volcano in the Monument produces almost pure liquid carbon dioxide. Only one other site in the world of this type is known and is part of the reason for the establishment of the Monument.

"The Visitors Center could also provide a base for scientific activities and administration not directly connected to the Monument. The Northern Marianas should be the site for part of the US system of volcano observatories, I think; and it might make sense to put that function together with the Monument Center."

Sablan says he is hopeful that the bill can move quickly through the legislative process. "Once we have the authorization for the Visitors Center, we can start looking for the funds to build and operate it." (PR)



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTICE

July 31, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Swearing-in of Edwin M. Hofsneider
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. June 11, 2009
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS REPORTS
 1. Financial Reports
 2. Legal Counsel's Report
- III. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
 1. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
 - a. Comptroller
 2. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
 - a. Loans & Borrowers Requests
 - b. Update on Foreclosed Properties
 3. DBD/Public Finance Committee
 - a. \$140M Bond Reconciliation
 4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 1. Small Business Development Center
 2. Business Incubator
- V. NEW BUSINESS
- VI. OTHER MATTERS
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ **PEDRO I. ITIBUS**
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

Commonwealth I Sankattan Sih Na Islas Mariana Ofisinan I Gubietno Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

Priniponen Atkilon Tanu Publiku

Notisia ginan i Depattamenton Tanu Publiku: Guaha priniponen atkilon tanu publiku espesifikamente Tanu Numeru 076 D 15, poku mas o'menus 3,000 metru kuatdrao minidoñgña gi katan estatuan Matsue giya Garapan. I mapa yan todo infotmasion pot este na tanu gaige gi depattamenton tanu giya Dandan, segundu bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Building.

I para u inatkila este na lugat i Marianas Fitness, Ltd., un' kompania guine. I membron kuetpon este na kompania i sigiente siha: Russel D. Quinn, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rexford C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela Gabaldon, Christopher J. Nelson, and Brett D. Nelson.

I offisiat siha i sigiente: Russell D. Quinn, presidente; Marian Aldan-Pierce, segundu presidente; Rexford C. Kosack, secretariu; yan Yoshio S. Gabaldon, tresurariu. I kontratan este na atkilon manegosiu as Señor Kosack yan Señora Aldan-Pierce.

I umatikila este na tanu publiku libre umusa i lugat pot bisnis eksisius taimanu i gaige pago na fasilitat gi Marianas Fitness, Ltd. I tetminon atkilon bente siñku años (25 years) yan appottunidat ma-ekstenden este na atkilon talu kinse años (15 years).

I atkilon tanu kada sakan guaha figura mapega halom guine na kontrata segun i balin i lugat ni monhayen esta marikonose gi hilu i mafanaana "appraisal" ripot (katkulon balin tanu) ginan un' kualifikao na kompania.

I Depattamenton Tano taya otro plano ha resibe gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Garapan, Saipan.

Kopian este na proposito gaige gi todo offisinan tanu publiku entalu Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Libre kada su-dadanu rumikonose este na dokumentu. I kabesanten depattamtun tanu publiku siña in' tigie' yangin guaha sentimientun miyu pot i mapropopone. Este na anunsiu areglon Lai Publiku 15-2. I uttimu haanen mun'a halom opñion i Agosto dia 7, 2009 gi todo Offisinan Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaol eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyooy máfyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyghihi, aewewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilon ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aewewe kka rebwe mweti ngáli milikka ebwe akkateélo.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No 076 D 15, eyoor eluuw sangaras llapal (3,000 square meters), elapelo me ngáre eghús, elo Liyo, Luuta. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéschél schóól akkilon nge Marianas Fitness, Ltd., CNMI corporation. Schóóy Assamwoolul mwírisch (board of directors) mellól corporation nge Russell D. Queen, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rexford C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela N. Gabaldon, Christopher I. Nelson, me Brett D. Nelson.. Samwoolul (President) corporation nge Russell D. Quinn.. Arúschayúl assamwool (vice president) nge Marian Aldan-Pierce. Sekkeretorio nge Rexford C. Kosack. Treasurer nge Yoshio S. Gabaldon..
- iii. Schóól aeweeel akkilon nge Mr. Rexford C. Kosack me Ms. Marian Aldan-Pierce..
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááli bwuley reel mwóghutufisch ngáre leliyal ammey (fitness gymnasium) fengál me wiisal.. Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years). Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú mellol bwuley yeel.
- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwatal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; aruwatal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúluyó.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Arabwal, Seipél..
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mágemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal August (Elúwel) 7, 2009 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúluyó.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 076 D 15, containing an area of approximately 3,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The prospective lessee is Marianas Fitness, Ltd., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Russell D. Quinn, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rexford C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela N. Gabaldon, Christopher J. Nelson, and Brett D. Nelson.
- iii. The President of the Corporation is Russell D. Quinn. The Vice President is Marian Aldan-Pierce. The Secretary is Rexford C. Kosack. The Treasurer is Yoshio S. Gabaldon.
- iv. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Rexford C. Kosack and Ms. Marian Aldan-Pierce.
- v. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of operating an all-purpose fitness gymnasium and other related support facilities.
- vi. The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.
- vii. The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).
- viii. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- ix. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.
- x. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 7, 2009 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

IT&E's job fair a huge success

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

IT&E's job fair at the Fiesta Resort and Spa was a big success in terms of the number of applications it received during the three-hour event.

The job fair was intended to fill up about 300 job positions for IT&E's planned expansion for its call center service.

Although the total number of applications have not been determined yet, IT&E said it was able to hit its target.

IT&E is the first company to establish a call service company in the CNMI.

Applicants, mostly young people, some fresh off college, showed up at the Azucena Room and joined the long line as early as 8am.

The fair was scheduled from 9am to 12pm.

IT&E conducted the job fair to determine the possible candidate pool for a potential call center expansion in the CNMI.

They would be filling up positions such as telephone operators and support staff, including full-time, part-time entry level and first level management.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Applicants submit application forms during the IT&E Job Fair last Saturday at the Azucena Room of Fiesta Resort and Spa.

Contract Centers Division executive director Rob Harrell said the huge turnout of applicants proved that people are supportive of this new industry.

Harrell said the result would also prove to their potential

customers that there is enough manpower available locally for up to 400 employees.

The actual hiring of the candidates for the possible call center expansion program would take around two

to three months.

IT&E earlier stated that the call center preparations are based on current negotiations and will enter the next stage after the qualifying certificate conditions are finalized.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DPS-115**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 12, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) POLICE PACKAGE
MOTORCYCLES / 2-DPS-POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION -
TINIAN & 2-DPS-POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION - ROTA
CIF-TINIAN AND ROTA"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAR
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DCCA-109**

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 18, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL SERVICES
FOR THE DEPT. OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL
AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES"**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MR. CALVANI P. DLGUERRERO, DIRECTOR OF DYS BY FAX TO: (670) 664-2560 OR E-MAIL TO cdlguerrero@gmail.com NO LATER THAN AUGUST 07, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERRED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAR
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-CRM-120**

SUBMISSION: AUGUST 12, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, PH.D
DIRECTOR OF CRM

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAR
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DPH-123 (A-J)**

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: AUGUST 19, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF 18-25 LAPTOPS, 2-4 LAPTOPS, 1-2 LAPTOPS, 5-7 DESKTOP COMPUTERS, 1 DESKTOP COMPUTER, 1 MONITOR, 2-4 PROJECTORS, 1-2 COPIER/FAX/SCANNER, 1 SCANNER AND 1 DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT/ARCHIVING SOFTWARE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAR
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DLNR/FW-112**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 12, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO REPLACE THE TERMITE DAMAGED WOOD CABINETS AND SHELVES IN THE FISHERIES WAREHOUSE FOR THE DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE - FISHERIES RESEARCH PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/s/ IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ D.V.M.
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAR
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DPH-124 CIF-SAIPAN FOB: CHC/MSO**

BID SUBMISSION: AUGUST 18, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.
BID OPENING: AUGUST 18, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ELEVEN (11) PORTABLE GENERATORS 17,500 WATTS CAPACITY AND TRANSFER KITS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAR
DIRECTOR, P&S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 3, 1999

'Local first' bill okayed

A legislation granting preference to local firms over government contracts has finally drawn support from the administration as acting Governor Jesus R. Sablan approved the proposal on the third attempt by the Legislature. Offered by Sen. Juan P. Tenorio, Public Law 11-87 allows a sweeping overhaul of the existing bidding regulations in the Commonwealth to favor locally-based companies over their foreign competitors in what legislators consider a move to keep public funds within the island. "The bill will help boost our local economy, especially during this time of economic downturn in the Commonwealth," said Sablan in signing Senate Bill 11-140 into law last Friday.

Anti-GOP effort at Interior detailed

WASHINGTON—An Interior Department official conducted political research on a range of Republican lawmakers while on the job, according to documents compiled by the House Resources Committee. Memos retrieved from the computer of David North, public affairs officer of the Interior Department's Insular Affairs Office, detail an elaborate campaign in which North distributed information to Democratic candidates on House Republicans' relationship with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. territory exempt from federal labor and immigration laws. In one document, for example, North sent the election opponent of Rep. Phil English, R-Pa., a five-page press release criticizing English's ties to Willie Tan, who owns garment factories in the Northern Marianas.

Aug. 3, 2000

FSM food ban to be lifted soon

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources is moving toward the lifting of the ban on the importation of food from the Federated States of Micronesia following reports that the cholera epidemic in the state of Pohnpei has been contained. DLNR Secretary Joaquin Tenorio and Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez recently met to assess a report by the FSM cholera task force assuring the CNMI government the epidemic is under control. "We are currently reviewing our quarantine order with the Commonwealth Health Center and trying to modify it because we cannot continue to apply these restrictions. We will eventually be lifting the ban," said the secretary.

Greenpeace joins Tanapag residents in fight vs PCB

Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior vessel arrived yesterday afternoon in an effort to help residents of Tanapag gain worldwide attention and push the U.S. officials to move swiftly in cleaning up the polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in the village. The ship, manned by 14 crew members from nine countries, came from Okinawa, Japan and is set to leave for Australia on Monday. They were welcomed by Tanapag residents who were happy to have been joined by the international group in their struggle to solve the biggest environmental and health problems confronting the CNMI. Greenpeace has declared Tanapag a toxic hot spot and demanded an immediate cleanup of the village and Cemetery No. 2.

Aug. 3, 2001

\$5M for salary hike OKd

It took 10 years but the Senate finally passed a bill yesterday that appropriates \$5 million to fund the salary increases that the government owes its employees retroactive to 1991. Besides this, \$3.5 million was also appropriated by the Upper Chamber to fund the hazard pay of the Commonwealth's police officers and firemen. House Bill 12-381, which primarily aims to provide hazard pay to police officers and firemen of the Department of Public Safety, sailed through the Senate on a unanimous vote, with a rider incorporating the retroactive pay for government personnel.

DOLI confirms alien's illegal status

Suspicions are rife that the six Chinese nationals, who were on board the ill-fated boat that capsized off Tinian Sunday, were involved in human smuggling operations, as the Department of Labor and Immigration confirmed that one of them is an overstaying alien. According to DOLI, one of the six Chinese has been illegally staying in the Northern Marianas for four years now. No less than Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares made the disclosure, even as the department's legal counsel, Terrence Denigan, refused to comment to the media regarding his "active cases."

Office of Aging gets \$60K for meal allowances

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Office of Aging has just received federal funds worth over \$60,000 for its meal allowances through the American Reinvestment Recovery Act funds.

Acting Secretary of Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Melvin O. Faisao said a total of \$40,625 would be used for the congregate meals while \$20,000 has been allocated for the home delivered meals.

Faisao has just arrived from an official trip to the U.S. mainland where he met with David Ishida, the regional administrator of the federal government's Administration on Aging. New reporting requirements for ARRA funds were discussed during the meeting.

Faisao also met with John Jacobs, program representative of the U.S. Department of Labor, to discuss issues relating to the Title V Program, known as the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Three new butterfly species found in Samoa

APIA, Samoa (Samoa Observer/PIR)—Three new butterfly species were recently discovered in Samoa bringing the total for the Samoan archipelago to 30 species of butterflies. Scientists from the New Zealand Department of Conservation in collaboration with staff from the MNRE's Division of Environment and Conservation made the findings during field work throughout Samoa in April. The surveys were funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, which is managed by the Conservation International Pacific Islands Program in Apia. Among these new finds is a small blue butterfly which may have been here for a long time but have been misidentified. This species, Petrelaea tombagensis, is a fast and high-flying species associated with talie (Terminalia catappa). The butterfly species, while recently found on Savai'i, Upolu and Tutuila, has also been lately recorded for the first time in Tonga and Vanuatu.

American Samoa 'ghost' employees probed

APIA, Samoa (Samoalive News/PIR)—The government's investigation into possible ghost employees in ASG is still ongoing and the Attorney General's Office could not comment about the probe at this time in order to protect the status of the investigation. ASG Treasurer Magalei Logovi'i first launched the ghost employee probe on Feb. 16, President's Day -- a federal holiday, when the majority of ASG employees were

The SCESP gives equal opportunity for senior citizens in the CNMI to be employed in certain government positions and in private companies.

The main purpose of the meeting was also about submission of requirements for the current CNMI State Plan to the US DOL.

DCCA also provided an update on the over \$12 million funding for the food stamp program for 2010.

One of the main highlights of his mainland trip was a meeting with the officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Food Nutrition Services regarding negotiations for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

He said the CNMI's food stamp program would be awarded based on the value of the so-called Thrifty Food Plan of almost \$13 million, a significant increase from the 2009 figure of around \$10 million.

It was agreed during negotiations that the completion of the survey for commodity price in-

dex on Saipan, Tinian and Rota would be part of the agreement. The CNMI requested this as part of the negotiations.

The CNMI Department of Commerce is currently conducting the survey, to be completed by the end of September.

Faisao explained that they asked for this CPI survey because they believe it would show the differences in commodity prices between the three islands.

He added that a CPI survey would show the CNMI may be entitled to more funding as it could provide data that may help convince the federal government to increase the CNMI's food stamp program allocation.

Faisao also met with the officials of the USDA - Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. This is a new program under the DCCA.

Faisao and USDA program representative Suong Vong are now working on the state plan to be submitted to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for review.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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INVITATION TO BID

ITB09-GOV-130

Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters

CJPA #1315, CNMI Passport Office #1321 and DPW Building #1353

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters to three (3) CNMI Government Buildings, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI):

The project package will be available Tuesday, August 04, 2009 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall comply to the minimum wage requirement pursuant to the CNMI and Federal laws.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on August 07, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at one of the project sites, CNMI Passport Office, 1321 Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on August 08, 2009 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB09-GOV-130". An original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, August 18, 2009. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 11:00 a.m. local time, August 18, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF



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INVITATION TO BID

ITB09-GOV-131

Roof Repair – Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Roof Repair – Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) Building No. 1315 Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI):

The project package will be available Tuesday, August 04, 2009 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall comply to the minimum wage requirement pursuant to the CNMI and Federal laws.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on August 07, 2009, 10:00 a.m., local time, at the project site, CJPA Office, 1315 Guguan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on August 08, 2009 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB09-GOV-131". An original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, August 18, 2009. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 p.m. local time, August 18, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is thirty (30) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by thirty (30) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF



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Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp



NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commonwealth Development Authority will auction off various furniture and equipments from the Sunset Villa Hotel. A list of properties for auction may be obtained at CDA's Offices in Saipan and Rota.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold "AS IS" and "WHERE IS";
2. The items are being sold WITHOUT WARRANTY of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at SUNSET VILLA HOTEL, SONTON, ROTA on Friday, August 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.;
4. The Buyer at auction will be responsible for removing the items at the day of sale;
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card or certified check; and
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Full payment of the bid amount is required before the property can be removed from the CDA Office. Payment must be received before end of business day, 4:30 p.m. Friday, August 14, 2009. Failure to make full payment will cause award to be null and void and the next highest bid will be considered.

Inspection of the properties is recommended and may be arranged with Ms. Nanette E. Atalig any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays except holidays.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAR
Executive Director

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

US urgently needs more cybersecurity workers

You wouldn't consider someone an information technology expert who had never heard of the Internet. Yet the job descriptions for some of the federal government's cybersecurity jobs haven't been updated since 1988—before the Internet transformed how we think about technology. Staying abreast of changing times and technologies is essential in many fields, but in the realm of cybersecurity it is a necessity.

So a recent report by the Partnership for Public Service, a group that promotes government service, and consultant Booz Allen Hamilton that the federal government is having trouble finding and attracting a talented cyber-security workforce is worrisome. Among other findings, the survey noted that only 40 percent of hiring managers were satisfied or very satisfied with the number of qualified applicants for information security positions and that 77 percent were dissatisfied with the time it took to hire someone.

The source of this problem is twofold: a broken federal hiring process that makes it difficult for agencies to attract and retain the talent they need, and a nationwide deficit of people who possess necessary information technology skills.

The problems with the hiring process only begin with outdated job descriptions. Coordination between hiring managers and human resources personnel is poor. A process that takes more than a year can result in the selection of a candidate who fails to satisfy the needs of the job. Many agencies fall back on contractors to fill gaps—a risky proposition in the absence of a strong core workforce that can evaluate, supervise and coordinate their efforts.

Finding the right people poses a bigger challenge. Since many cybersecurity employees must be U.S. citizens to obtain security clearance, the paucity of Americans with expertise in math, science and computer technology poses a risk. Scholarship for Service programs run by the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of Personnel Management and the National Science Foundation have helped to create a pipeline of talent, providing tuition payment for students who agree to spend time working in federal information security after graduation. But there are not enough of them. Each year's small crop of students finds itself at the center of bidding wars among dozens of agencies.

The scholarship programs must be beefed up, and more American students should be encouraged to develop proficiency in math, science and technology. Meanwhile, the government needs to do its part by fixing a hiring system that often scares away qualified candidates. The problem of cyberattacks is an immediate one, and it won't go away. We need a cyberworkforce capable of addressing it.

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The Running of the Bulls:

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES... It's Michael Vick!...

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The gifts of gaffes

Isn't it great to have a president who says something foolish or impolitic from time to time?

With his remark that the Cambridge, Mass., police acted "stupidly" in arresting Henry Louis Gates, President Obama extended the story by a week or more and turned a nice little summer amusement for the political opinion industry into a "teachable moment," which means something everyone must get serious about. Obama also solidified his reputation as a foot-in-mouth almost as accomplished as his vice president. Before Gates and the police, there was his joke about Nancy Reagan conducting seances in the White House, and then an unfortunate (though very common) use of the Special Olympics as a punch line, and so on.

But Obama's rhetorical goofs usually are different from Joe Biden's momentum-mouth, just as they are different from the empty-headed nonsense of George W. Bush and the bizarre country-club-bar chatter of Bush's father. They are also different from the standard political "gaffe," which, as we know, is when a politician accidentally tells the truth. Obama's goofs are generally not a result of speaking the truth. They come from thinking things through incompletely. It turns out that the police officer who arrested Skip Gates was not necessarily acting "stupidly" and that Gates might have been doing just that. The president ultimately came up with a typically elegant formulation, describing the episode as a misunderstanding between "two good men." Wouldn't it have been better if he had just kept quiet until all the facts were in and all his thoughts were in order?

No, it would not have been better. The media, in their ill-fitting role as guardians of civility, now lecture the president on the special responsibilities of his office. His own aides no doubt shake their heads and tell one another that this is what happens when the man goes "off the reservation"—that is, when he fails to follow the script they have written for him. And of course the Limbaughs and Gingriches of the world are so upset that they can barely contain their delight at having this stick to beat Obama with.

The rituals of umbrage that have become so big a part of our political narrative aren't just tedious. They do real harm. Very often the offense taken is completely phony, such as during last fall's campaign when Obama stood accused of insulting Sarah Palin and all of womankind by using the phrase "lipstick on a pig." Three

By MICHAEL KINSLEY
Special to The Washington Post



problems here. First, the whole fuss was stagey and false. Second, it consumed valuable attention when citizens had more important subjects they should have been thinking and talking about. And third, it encouraged further fancied slights.

But even when the remark at issue is genuinely unfortunate and the offense taken isn't completely imaginary, the fuss is usually excessive and damaging. The people who declare that a president has a special responsibility not to say anything offensive have it wrong.

The president has a special responsibility to address important topics and to say important things. That can't be done in a thin-skinned political culture obsessed with gaffes, and with a citizenry overly quick to take offense.

We complain about politicians who talk in pre-tested and rehearsed sound bites, but we punish anyone who strays too far into his or her own thinking.

president. It's interesting to hear what he thinks about various subjects—even those that don't immediately affect his own presidency. But every teachable episode we put him through teaches him that speculation is risky. And the riskier we make it, the less of it we're likely to get.

Jokes are a slightly different category, but the dynamic is the same. The more we punish jokes that fall flat, the fewer good ones we're likely to get. Just as presidents start by chafing at the Secret Service and end up enjoying life inside the cocoon, they start by speaking their minds and gradually learn that it's safer and easier to live by the Teleprompter.

We complain about politicians who talk in pre-tested and rehearsed sound bites, but we punish anyone who strays too far into his or her own thinking.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

In my life

I recently heard the song *When I am Sixty-Four* played over the radio. It would have been quite a while back when I first heard the Beatles singing it, but a DJ must have played it for Paul McCartney who has reached the magical age when it is no longer "many years from now." The song originally was from a bunch of young men playfully gazing towards more forward years.

*When I get older, losing my hair, many years from now,
Will you still be sending me a Valentine,
birthday greetings, bottle of wine?
If I'd been out till quarter to three, would you lock the door?
Will you still need me, will you still feed me,
When I'm sixty-four?*

That portal has arrived for me as well.

It was 24 years ago when I discovered, on my first visit to the CNMI, that my twin brother to the hour I was born was "Little Boy" assembled on Tinian before it exploded over the skies of Hiroshima. I have since claimed that my twin brother is an instrument of mass destruction, perhaps, to secretly allow my misdemeanors to pale in comparison. The discovery more profoundly allowed me to appropriate the reality of evil in life, and the endless assault of imperfection that bedeviled the idealism of my youth.

Of the two different and often combating religious traditions I grew up in, that of my mother's and my father's, I remember writing in the heady spring days of youthful self-righteousness that my Mom's Vatican, in spite of John XXIII and the Jesuit's discovery of conscience, has become a whore, comporting with the decadent remnants of European empires and the political dictatorships of many former colonies; and my Dad has become a pimp to racist American exceptionalism, with its missionaries consciously or unconsciously foisting the racist altar of opportunistic liberal capitalism and exploitative free enterprise on the unwary poor and eager-to-work hungry masses around the world. Whore and pimp, they are, (or were, since I have become marginal in the life of both conventions), nevertheless, my parents. The genetics of my parents and the metaphors of their respective *weltanschauung* are my inheritance and heritage.

I am evidently describing a process that occurred in a period of time rather than a phenomenon that happened in a flash, but the refinement of consciousness was on the arena of accountability, where before, as befitting the turbulent years of the '60s and the '70s, one wielded the moralistic hammer of shame and guilt into the conscience of offending individuals and systems, oneself included,

into a discovery of another world in the midst of this world where occupancy is more by volition rather than coercion, by invitation rather than invasion. In an act of accountability annually observed this day to the question of: *Have you been faithful to your covenant to be the person that you are this previous year?* the answer comes as a truthful and ambiguous "Yes and No," or "No and Yes."

It was customary in my previous world to fiercely skewer and condemn. In this new world, one surrenders to the all-embracing world of affirmation. Aggression as the style to effect transformation is replaced by the power of deliberate assertion, and the spikes of demands become the compelling sharpness of suasion. Where once one harangued the perceived enemy into owning up to a problem and jolting them out of the paralysis of contradictions, one learned to enable the acknowledgement of innate gifts and to facilitate the perception of new opportunities.

A rephrasing of familiar metaphors occurred in this new world, providing a new context. In this world, which the ancients may have identified as the old world of the spirit, but I have billed my new earth, one lives in a land of mystery where the promise of the absolute certainty of truth is a lie, and the comfort of any form of eternal security is a delusion. One glories in ephemeral and permanent uncertainty and insecurity.

Internal strife and striving, which in society spawned a whole industry of psychiatric couches, has been transformed into a mountain of care where the currency of anger and despair has been replaced by the commerce of genius and creativity. All has become possible, one only had to decide. Failures become learning experiences, and illumination on the whole social process becomes an invitation to effective pedagogy. One is born free and the deconstruction of the structures of bondage accompanies the assertion of one's birthright, and the construction of life-affirming structures.

For the four-or-so scores I am covenanted to live my one and only unique existence, my world meanders like a river of consciousness, sometimes gushing down like a torrent along many bends, and other times, soothingly receiving the infusion of many tributaries. The mind is no longer an arena for confusion and conflict but a garden of surprises, with the acute awareness of decay, and the invigoration of new growth. Storms become the dynamic of the greenhouse, thunder the rhythm of the earthy and the sublime, and lightning the illumination of the unknown. Life is sailed in the effervescent waters of the unknowable Unknown!

The new earth is rapidly *glocalizing* (thinking globally, acting lo-

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

*Vergara is a regular contributor to the *Saipan Tribune's* Opinion Section.*



cally, and *vice versa*) and I have become a nomad in this sea of tranquility. Often pacific at the surface, the calm is held by the currents down the trench, and when the winds of change blows wildly on our worldly faces, I hung on to my rudder and navigate with the spirit of faith leaping that life itself is trustworthy, that freedom is my birthright, and the love that sustains graciously abides much more.

At my eldest daughter's wedding, the bridal party gave a gift to the parents. I was handed a cup with the words of another Beatles song artfully inscribed on the outside:

*There are places I remember
All my life though some have changed
Some forever, some for better
Some are gone, and some remain
All these places have their moments
With lovers and friends I still can recall
Some are dead and some are living
In my life I've loved them all.*

I've been listening to Sean Connery's Scottish baritone narrate this in one of CNN ads this year, and I found myself continually affirmed and pleasantly blessed.

"*Will you still love me when I am sixty-four?*" in one sense, had never been my song directed toward another for his/her response, yet in a real sense, it is my song to my own sense of self-affirmation. Do I love myself at 64? The "Yes and No," and "No and Yes," of my personal rite of accountability is still meaningfully and truthfully uttered, but does it finally matter? The whole planetary chorus this day unambiguously echoes the cosmic stamp of approval on my minuscule and insignificant existence, the heavenly spheres resound with a majestic and glorious YES!

May the hordes of *man' amkos* here and across this planet, whose accounting of their lives before or after 64, hear a similar affirmation. *L'achaim. Anshallah. Amen. Om.*

Letters to the Editor

Wily wool

Ever heard the expression "pull the wool over one's eyes"? It's commonly used to describe words or action when someone wants to dazzle you with statements or deeds that *appear* true on the surface, but are actually designed to try and mislead you or fool you into believing that what the person is saying or doing is for your benefit when the opposite may be true.

Such tactics are commonly used during political campaigns by candidates whose record is less than stellar. Nonetheless, they will parade before you a magnificent spectacle of "wool-pulling" stunts in an attempt to convince you that their record really is stellar after all. Don't be fooled by the example paraded out by Governor Fitial last Friday.

The 11th Youth Congress should be commended for its forum held last Friday, which gave us a first glimpse of what is to come. This forum has shown us that the youth of today is concerned about their future, is concerned about their homeland, is concerned about how their government is run—and soon, they will foment the dismemberment of "old-style" (read: "family-style") politics that have long ruled the NMI—and generally helped lead the slide down a slippery slope of ineptness, greed and corruption to our current calamitous state of affairs.

And now for some "wool-pulling": According to published reports, Gov. Fitial said: "*his administration allocates over 20 percent of the general fund to primary and secondary education, a lot more than the 15 percent mandated by the Constitution.*" He also said his administration "*allots more than 4 percent of the general fund to Northern Marianas College although the Constitution mandates only 1 percent from government resources.*"

While percentages can sometimes be used accurately to make a point such as: "the cost-of-living has increased by 10 percent this year over last year" or "the price of gasoline has fallen by 20 percent in the last month," the statement by the governor will lead you to a false deduction. Believe this: *Any* candidate who resorts to the use of percentages to make their point is almost invariably trying to hide the truth and fool you into thinking they are doing more than they

are. Percentages are sometimes nothing more than a clever way to manipulate the numbers, and the use here is illustrative of the basis upon which this candidate will (or must) campaign.

His assertion that he allocates 20 percent of the general fund (vs. a 15-percent mandate) may lead you to think he has increased the amount of money to education. *Not so.* Education actually receives *less* (NMI) money than in previous years and money available from the general fund has shrunk circa one-third over the last four years. The amount of monies available from a much smaller general fund may result in a higher percentage of it being allocated to a particular critical function, but is in no way indicative of the real amount allocated to anything. Example: 15 percent of a \$200 million fund (~2006 budget) is \$30 million; 20 percent of a \$146 million fund (~2009 budget) is only \$29.2 million! Result: higher percentage, less money.

In fairness, one could mention the governor (or was it the Legislature?) for at least maintaining educational spending near previous levels in the face of a drastically declining general fund. After all, is not education a critical function? But, he *chose* to try and mislead us into thinking he was doing more than he was instead of relating actual figures, which, by the way, are one of the *lowest* educational spending rates per student in any U.S. School district. Not exactly a statistic to be proud of. This is sad testament to a lack of truthfulness and honor and a triumph of self-aggrandizement. Now, we should ask all the candidates to tell us how much they will spend per student, on what programs and where the money will come from—and, please, *no* percentages!

On a side note: The "Kumoi/Borja" campaign apparently wants you to continue believing in the tooth fairy and the Easter bunny. As in campaigns past, the same old rhetoric is trotted out anew (re: CUC) but still deeply ensconced in a very old paradigm. This format worked in the past, but times they-are-a-changin' (as they say) and "old-box" thinking must give way to new and innovative methods and procedures, *none* of which have yet been revealed by candidates or their "platforms" in this (young) campaign. Oh, did I say "platform"? It seems that every candidate still believes in everything—God, country, mom and apple pie inclusive—but nary a detail in sight. The devil is in the details. Ask for the details.

Things are heating up now, and every voter should look deeply into what is said, study the innuendo, calculate the depth and verac-

ity of answers when questioned, measure the capacity of expounded ideas to perform—and their consequences—and spread the word when you see obfuscations of the truth. This may be the only way to challenge the candidates to take a different road—one of truth, honor, openness and *facts*. From what I have read, much of the NMI youth of today can and will see through the fabricated façades of politicians. They will get to the truth by examining the record and base their votes on that instead of the "theory of relativity." I commend them each and every one for that and their desire and eagerness to participate.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.,
San Jose, Tinian

Safe schools or football field?

I've just now noticed an announcement that has no doubt been running for several weeks in the papers: that the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. proposes to reprogram \$800,000 designated for repair of three buildings at the San Roque Elementary School and instead use the money to pay for a "CNMI Football Complex." The funds involved are part of a Community Development Block Grant.

Why is it that no one has, apparently, noticed? No one has commented? No one has voiced objection?

Hopefully, the reprogramming will be rejected. Aren't safe school buildings more important than a football field—election-year politics notwithstanding?

Written comments on the proposed re-programming are due no later than 4:30pm, Aug. 7, at the "main" post office in Garapan [sic], P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be made to Zenia P. Mafnas at 670-234-7670, 6866,7689 or 9447. A public hearing is scheduled at the San Roque Elementary School Cafeteria on Thursday, Aug. 13, at 6pm.

Ruth Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. West winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼79
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86 ▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲60 ▼52
Beijing	Cloudy	▲94 ▼75
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲92 ▼83
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲85 ▼77
London	Showers	▲72 ▼57
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲86 ▼64
Manila	Rain	▲84 ▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲59 ▼44
Miami	Cloudy	▲91 ▼79
New York	Cloudy	▲86 ▼71
Osaka	Cloudy	▲89 ▼74
Paris	Cloudy	▲76 ▼62
Pusan	Cloudy	▲85 ▼75
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼65
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲90 ▼56
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲70 ▼57
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼75
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼76
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲88 ▼74

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
4:35 AM Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
12:24 PM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet
7:47 PM Today	High Tide: 1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:00 AM	6:46 PM	Today	4:47 PM	3:21 AM
Tuesday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM	Tuesday	5:32 PM	4:13 AM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM	Wednesday	6:13 PM	5:04 AM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM	Thursday	6:51 PM	5:54 AM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM	Friday	7:28 PM	6:42 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 21, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily
C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily
C09597 11:50am 12:20pm 1, 7 via ROP
C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5
C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily
C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily
C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily
NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily
NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO
NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily
C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1
OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6
via KIX
OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN
OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM
OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN
OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN

OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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REPAC donates books, medical supplies to Saipan

Reach out Pacific or REPAC, a group founded by Hawaii Rep. Glenn Wakai, has loaded a container of educational and medical supplies bound for Saipan.

In a statement issued Friday, Wakai said the shipment will be arriving on island on Aug. 13. Inside are 16 pallets of bookshelves, four pallets of books (textbooks/library books/toys), two respirators/ventilators, and two TVs with carts.

This gift was made possible due to the generosity of the University of Hawaii, Queens Hospital, Hawaii Department of Education, and Matson.

Wakai, a former Saipan resident and reporter for KMCV News, said, "I love Saipan and will continue to support the place I once called home."

ON THE NET

www.reachoutpacific.org

REPAC is a Hawaii non-profit organization that is dedicated to improving healthcare services and education in Micronesia.

According to its Web site, REPAC's main operation is

to collect surplus supplies from public and private institutions in Hawaii and then distributes these supplies to organizations in Micronesia who are in need.

Since its establishment in 2005, REPAC has helped numerous Micronesian organizations in need obtain more than \$350,000 worth of much-needed supplies such as hospital beds,

sheets, furniture, wheelchairs, treatment tables, books, computers, and many more items.

Its projects have brought aid to a wide range of islands in the Pacific, including American Sa-

moa, Marshall Islands, Chuuk, Kosrae, and the CNMI.

For more information about REPAC, visit its new Web site www.reachoutpacific.org. (Saipan Tribune)

Woodruff questions Kaipat's ruling on appeals on behalf of Labor chief

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

On behalf of a farmer, lawyer Stephen Woodruff has questioned Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta Kaipat's alleged ruling on appeals on behalf of Labor Secretary Gil San Nicolas.

Woodruff, counsel for John John H. Cruz, stated that although the purported San Nicolas' order on appeal is signed in the name of San Nicolas, the signature is not that of the official.

In Cruz's petition for judicial review, Woodruff said the form of the signature readily reveals the document was actually signed by someone other than San Nicolas.

The lawyer noted that the signature "Gil M. San Nicolas" is followed by a slash and the initials "JMK."

"On information and belief, the document was actually signed by...Deputy Secretary of Labor Cinta M. Kaipat," Woodruff said.

He argued that the position of Labor Deputy Secretary does not exist in Commonwealth law.

"No appointment of someone in such a position can lawfully be made. The function of deciding appeals to the Secretary of Labor is non-delegable," he said.

Woodruff asked the Superior Court to set a briefing schedule



Kaipat

for processing Cruz's appeal. He asked the court to rescind the purported decision of San Nicolas as not lawful.

"This case presents an almost incomprehensible procedural history at Labor and even more incomprehensible rulings hostile to plaintiff, who appeared pro se up until the time of his appeal to the Labor Secretary," he said.

Labor records show that on May 25, 2007, Ramon M. Sablan submitted an application to Labor to employ Cruz as a farmer. Labor approved a conditional grant of transfer on that same day.

Woodruff alleged that Cruz worked for Sablan in June and July 2007 and was paid for his services.

However, in August 2007, Cruz was told to stop farming and was not provided any work thereafter, according to Woodruff.

The following month, Cruz testified against Sablan in a Labor compliance agency case.

By virtue of this testimony, Woodruff said the plaintiff was a "whistleblower" under Labor employment rules and regulations.

"Although this regulation was not in effect at the time of plaintiff's testimony, it had come into effect by the time of the proceedings at issue in this case," he said.

Woodruff said it appears that it was Kaipat who signed the denial of the appeal instead of San Nicolas.

On June 4, 2008, Cruz filed

LISS High School offers scholarship

Ladera International School of Saipan announced Friday that students in high school can now avail of scholarships for the school year 2009/10.

Grades 9 to 12 will be open for community scholarships offered at LISS, subject to approval and review from LISS.

CONTACT INFO

LISS: 288-2006

avail of this offer must complete the necessary documents at the LISS office on that day.

The LISS High School, through its partners of Laurus and Education, will review potential students who may avail of U.S. university scholarships during their tenure at LISS.

Potential candidates for these higher education opportunities will be given all necessary requirements as well as the needed coaching for the offers both LISS and Laurus will do for the individuals. This service offered

by Laurus and Education will enhance students' abilities to meet the criteria and accelerate chances to be accepted in major U.S. universities as well as Ivy League schools on scholarship as well.

LISS High School with its limited number will be able to accommodate a possible 10 slots per grade level. With consideration of opening up more if needed, up to 40 scholarships for high school is now open.

Call 288-2006 or visit LISS for more information on other tuition programs available at the school. (PR)



The 16 pallets of bookshelves and four pallets of books being donated by REPAC await shipment to Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



This picture shows the two respirators/ventilators being donated by Reach out Pacific or REPAC to Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEWS BRIEFS

1st cha-cha concert fundraiser

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is hosting a cha-cha concert fundraising event with live music from Olomwaay, Parker and Burning Bush.

"Blame it on the Cha Cha Cha," is the Council's first cha-cha concert fundraiser, to be held this Aug. 28 at the Saipan World Resort Jungle Stage from 5:30pm to 10:30pm.

The council is also seeking sponsors for this community event and is urging those who could extend educational tax credit to the council to do so.

"Blame it on the Cha Cha Cha" will feature a cha-cha contest, live performances all night long and a chance to help a great community organization.

Tickets are \$10 per person with a complimentary drink and will be available at the NMIHC office at the King's Plaza in Dandan soon. Call 235-4785 for more information. (PR)

Chamber meeting this Wednesday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its next general membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Sand

Castle this Wednesday, Aug. 5.

Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon.

As usual, the meeting is \$15 for members, \$20 for guests of members, and \$25 for the public.

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada will speak at the meeting to provide an update on the status of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, as well as other areas of the department's operations. (PR-SCC)

Marpi detonation in August

This is to advise the public, especially tour and dive operators, farmers, joggers and bikers, that the Marpi area will be closed off on Friday, Aug. 7, 2009, from 12pm to 3pm for the detonation operation that will be conducted by the Department of Public Safety, the Emergency Management Office, and the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marianas.

The location of activity will be at the Laderan Lagoon cliff line, about a mile north of Marpi landfill.

The only area that will not be closed off will be Suicide Cliff, which will be the main viewing point for the detonation. Public access to Suicide Cliff is allowed

only through the road leading up to the Far East Broadcasting antenna for viewing purpose. DPS will set up security posts to enforce and control traffic movement for safety purpose.

For more information, call the Department of Public Safety PIO at 664-9023. (DPS)

Veterans briefing

All veterans are being informed that on Aug. 10-12, 2009, Danielle Gualtieri, the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs public contact and outreach specialist for Guam and the CNMI, will be on Saipan to talk with veterans about their federal benefits. In addition, Ray Chang, also from the Federal VA, will be on Saipan on Aug. 12 to brief veterans on the VA home loan and adaptive housing. They will also be entertaining questions and assist with claims. Date, time and place of the briefing is as follows:

■ Rota: Aug. 10-11, at the Rota Mayor's Office, conference room

■ Saipan: Aug. 12-13, 8am-4pm at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs on Capital Hill, building 1364. Aug. 12 only, Adaptive Housing, Ray Chang.

■ Tinian: Aug. 14, 8am-4pm at the Tinian Mayor's Office

For more information, call Ruth Coleman at 664-2650. (PR)

Business

Welcome to the bottom: Housing begins slow rebound

By ADRIAN SAINZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

It was—note the past tense—the worst housing recession anyone but survivors of the Great Depression can remember.

From the frenzied peak of the real estate boom in 2005-2006 to the recession's trough earlier this year, home resales fell 38 percent and sales of new homes tumbled 76 percent. Construction of homes and apartments skidded 79 percent. And for the first time in more than four decades of record keeping, home prices posted consecutive annual declines.

A staggering \$4 trillion in home equity was wiped out, and millions of Americans lost their homes through foreclosure.

Now take a deep breath and exhale. The worst is over.



A house for sale is shown in Miami Springs, Fla., Thursday, July 23, 2009.

By every measure, except foreclosures, the housing market has stabilized and many areas are recovering, according to a spate of data released in the past two weeks. Nationwide, home resales in June are up 9 percent from January, on a seasonally adjusted basis. Sales of new homes have climbed 17 percent during the same period. And construction, while still anemic, has risen almost 20 percent since the beginning of the year.

Even home prices, down one third from the top, edged up in May, the first monthly increase since June 2006.

"The freefall is over," says Dean Baker of the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

The problem is that, Baker, like many economists, expects the housing market will "be bouncing around the bottom" for

the second half of the year.

There are also real threats that could poison this budding recovery. The unemployment rate, which is 9.5 percent, is expected to surpass 10 percent, leaving even more homeowners unable to pay their mortgages. Mortgage rates could rise, making homeownership less affordable. And the federal tax credit for first-time homebuyers, which as lured many into the market, is set to expire on Nov. 30.

"As long as jobs are being lost, regardless of all the federal programs out there to help the borrowers, you're still going to have problems in the housing market," says Steve Cumbie, executive director of the Center for Real Estate Development at the University of North Carolina's Kenan-Flagler Business School.

PSE pledges support for APAFS' Pacific Investment Conference

The Philippine Stock Exchange, the only stock exchange in the Philippines and the biggest one in Asia, recently formed a strategic partnership with the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies, for the upcoming 9th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference later this year.

The conference is the only education-forum concentrating on the Asia Pacific region. It brings more than 350 delegations from all over the region and taps world-class experts to shed light on current issues to complement regional understanding.

This is the third time that PSE has



Roland

supported APAFS and the Pacific Region Investment Conference. PSE president Francis Ed Lim represented the organization by delivering the welcome remarks at last year's conference held in Manila.

"Such key connections are central to achieving a wide range of diversity and expertise at the Pacific Region Investment Conference. We all work to educate and equip each other," said Daniel Roland, CIMA, executive director of APAFS.

APAFS is the premier educational

association for prudent fund stewardship. For nine consecutive years, APAFS is organizing the only education conference-forum focused on the Asia Pacific region. The investment conference aims to provide its expected 400 delegates current and

fundamental understanding of global issues and regional trends from world-class experts.

The Pacific Region Investment Conference is set to be held on Oct. 8 and 9 at Renaissance Makati City Hotel Manila. To learn more about APAFS and the upcoming Pacific Region Investment Conference, log on to www.apafs.org. (PR-APAFS)

ON THE NET

www.apafs.org

Author to attend 5th Micronesia Real Estate Investment Conference

HAGATNA, GUAM—Steve Bergsman, expert writer on real estate, will attend the 2009 Micronesia Real Estate Investment Conference on Oct. 2 and 3 at the LeoPalace Resort.

Bergsman will be signing copies of his latest book, published this year, at the conference.

After the Fall: Opportunities and Strategies for Real Estate Investing in the Coming Decade will provide readers with a comprehensive and informative update sure to be of interest to those looking to make strategic real estate investments.

Bergsman is also the author of *Maverick Real Estate Financing*, *Maverick Real Estate Investing*, *Passport to Exotic Real Estate*, and *Buying U.S.*

Hackers expose weakness in visiting trusted sites

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A powerful new type of Internet attack works like a telephone tap, except operates between computers and Web sites they trust.

Hackers at the Black Hat and DefCon security conferences have revealed a serious flaw in the way Web browsers weed out untrustworthy sites and block anybody from seeing them. If a criminal infiltrates a network, he can set up a secret eavesdropping post and capture credit card numbers, passwords and other sensitive data flowing between computers on that network and sites their browsers have deemed safe.

In an even more nefarious plot, an attacker could hijack the auto-update

and *Foreign Property in Breathtaking, Beautiful and Faraway Lands*—which includes chapters on Guam and Saipan.

He is also a noted commentator on real estate, writing for a number of leading publications, and a noted travel writer.

The theme of the 2009 conference, hosted by the Captain Real Estate Group of Companies, is "Micronesia Real Estate: Building Momentum."

W. Nicholas Captain, president of the Captain Real Estate Group of Companies, said, "The conference will cover a wide range of topics that will impact Micronesia real estate in the future. Considering that construction for the massive military buildup is scheduled to begin in 2010, strategic real estate investment analysis in our region is

particularly timely."

The Micronesia Real Estate Investment Conference is held every two years and attendance has grown to several hundred delegates. In October 2001, 120 delegates attended the first conference; 150 in September 2003; 175 in 2005, and just under 300 delegates attended in 2007.

At the conference, a variety of expert speakers will address an audience of several hundred attendees and participate in a number of panel presentations and workshops. The conference provides attendees a unique opportunity to hear experts, peers and industry professionals speak and share information about real estate investment and development in Micronesia. (PR)

cure Sockets Layer (SSL) certificates, which is a common technology used on banking, e-commerce and other sites handling sensitive data.

Browser makers and the companies that sell SSL certificates are working on a fix.

Microsoft Corp., whose Internet Explorer browser is the world's most popular, said it was investigating the issue. Mozilla Corp., which makes the No. 2 Firefox browser, said most of the problems being addressed were fixed in the latest version of its browser, and that the rest will be fixed in an update coming this week.

VeriSign Inc., one of the biggest SSL certificate companies, maintains that its certificates aren't vulnerable.

Honda expands recall of driver's air bag

TORRANCE, CALIF. (AP)—A safety recall of the driver's air bag in certain Honda vehicles is being expanded to include more vehicles. The recall now involves certain 2001-2002 Honda Accords, 2001 Civics and 2002-2003 Acura TL's. The recall is due to a potential defect in the airbag's inflation system. Acura is Honda's luxury brand.

American Honda Motor Co. said Friday that 440,000 additional vehicles are included in the expanded recall, which will require the replacement of the driver's steering-wheel-mounted air bag inflator. The recall initially began in November 2008.

Obama: Innovation key to improving the economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Future economic prosperity depends on building a new, stronger foundation and recapturing the "spirit of innovation," President Barack Obama says. "Innovation has been essential to our prosperity in the past, and it will be essential to our prosperity in the future," Obama

said Saturday in his weekly radio and Internet address. The president cited Friday's Commerce Department report showing that in the past few months the economy overall has done "measurably better than expected." He credited his \$787 billion economic stimulus program for much of that progress. "This and the other difficult but important steps that we have taken over the last six months have helped put the brakes on this recession," Obama said.

Uncle Sam helps boost bank earnings

NEW YORK (AP)—Bank CEOs should give Uncle Sam a little kudos in their earnings reports. Without the U.S. government's help, financial companies wouldn't be showing such stellar results in the midst of a recession. There has been a flood of surprisingly strong profit news coming from the nation's banks in recent weeks. Asset sales and higher trading volumes have been a big help, but that's not all that got them there. Federal debt guarantees and near-zero interest rates have given banks' earnings lots of juice, and they could both disappear soon. "Cash and capital are fungible, and to the extent that they have been able to get their hands on it in any form, that has benefited them," said John Jay, a senior analyst at the market research and consulting firm Aite Group.

American finds fuselage scratches on some 737-800s

ATLANTA (AP)—American Airlines has inspected dozens of planes and found three with tiny scratches on the aluminum skin of the fuselage that may have been caused by airport jetbridges used by passengers to walk on and off aircraft. The scratches must be repaired before the affected planes can re-enter service because, while they are very small, they are deeper than allowed by the manufacturer's guidelines, according to American. The damage was found in an area of the aircraft where the canopy of a jetbridge meets the fuselage, American spokeswoman Mary Frances Fagan said Saturday. "There's absolutely no safety concern," Fagan said. Fagan said less than a dozen flights were canceled as a result of the inspections.

Nation

Lawmaker questions low Medal of Honor count

By KEVIN FREKING
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nearly eight years of war in Afghanistan and Iraq have left 4,000 soldiers killed in action, more than 34,000 wounded—and only six considered worthy of the nation's highest military award for battlefield valor.

For some veterans and members of Congress, that last number simply doesn't add up.

They question how so few Medals of Honor—all awarded posthumously—could be bestowed for two wars of such magnitude and duration.

Pentagon officials say the nature of war has changed. Laser-guided missiles destroy enemy

ON THE NET

Medal of Honor Statistics:
<http://www.history.army.mil/html/moh/mohstats.html>

positions without putting soldiers in harm's way. Insurgents deploy roadside bombs rather than engage in firefights they're certain to lose.

Yet, those explanations don't

Wis. jury: Father guilty in prayer death case

WAUSAU, Wis. (AP)—A central Wisconsin man accused of killing his 11-year-old daughter by praying instead of seeking medical care was found guilty Saturday of second-degree reckless homicide.

Dale Neumann, 47, was convicted in the March 23, 2008, death of his daughter, Madeline, from undiagnosed diabetes. Prosecutors contended he should have rushed the girl to a hospital because she couldn't walk, talk, eat or drink. Instead, Madeline died on the floor of the family's rural Weston home as people surrounded her and prayed. Someone called 911 when she stopped breathing.

Sitting straight in his chair, Neumann stared at the jury as the verdict in a nearly empty courtroom was read. He declined comment as he left the

courtroom.

Defense attorney Jay Kronenwetter said the verdict would be appealed. He declined further comment.

Prosecutors also declined comment, citing a gag order.

Leilani Neumann, 41, was convicted on the same charge in the spring. Marathon County Circuit Judge Vincent Howard set Oct. 6 for sentencing for both parents, who face up to 25 years in prison.

Their case is believed to be the first in Wisconsin involving faith healing in which someone died and another person was charged with a homicide.

Last month, an Oregon jury convicted a man of misdemeanor criminal mistreatment for relying on prayer instead of seeking medical care for his 15-month-old daughter who died of pneumonia and a blood

infection in March 2008. Both of the girl's parents were acquitted of a more serious manslaughter charge.

Neumann's jury—six men and six women—deliberated about 15 hours over two days before convicting him. At one point, jurors asked the judge whether Neumann's belief in faith healing made him "not liable" for not taking his daughter to the hospital even if he knew she wasn't feeling well.

Neumann, who once studied to be a Pentecostal minister, testified Thursday that he believed God would heal his daughter and he never expected her to die. God promises in the Bible to heal, he said.

"If I go to the doctor, I am putting the doctor before God," Neumann testified. "I am not believing what he said he would do."



This undated file photo released by the U.S. Navy shows Navy SEAL Lt. Michael P. Murphy, from Patchogue, N.Y. Murphy, who was killed in June 2005 while leading a reconnaissance mission deep behind enemy lines in Afghanistan, was awarded the nation's highest military award for valor—the Medal of Honor.

tell the whole story, said Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif. Hunter sponsored legislation that directs the secretary of defense to review current trends in awarding the Medal of Honor to determine what's behind the low count. The bill passed the House. If Senate negotiators go along, Secretary Robert Gates would have to report back by March 31.

"It seems like our collective standard for who gets the Medal of Honor has been raised," said Hunter, a first-term member of Congress who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The basis of warfare is you've got to take ground and then you've got to hold it. That takes people walking into houses, running up hills, killing bad guys and then staying there and rebuffing counterattacks," he added. "That's how warfare has always been no matter how many bombs you drop and how many predators you have flying around."

Military officials said they welcome the opportunity to conduct an in-depth review of the award process. Still, they dispute Hunter's theory.

"Nominations go through no more or less scrutiny than in the past," said Eileen Lainez, a Pentagon spokeswoman. "The standard for the Medal of Honor is high, as one would expect for our nation's most prestigious military decoration."

ACROSS THE NATION

LaGuardia terminal evacuated in NYC, 1 in custody

NEW YORK (AP)—Air travelers at New York's LaGuardia Airport found themselves in a mess of delays and missed connections Saturday after a homeless man carried a fake bomb into its central terminal, authorities said. LaGuardia's central terminal was evacuated for several hours after the man entered the building with the phony explosive in a bag, then acted like he was trying to detonate it, police said. The episode ended with a quick arrest, but it disrupted travel plans for thousands of people as flights were postponed and vehicle traffic to the airport was briefly halted. Delays also rippled across the country as airlines adjusted their schedules. Late Saturday, a judge ordered a psychiatric examination for the suspect, Scott McGann, a 32-year-old who had apparently been living on New York City's streets for at least a year.

20 blind people test drive student-designed car

COLLEGE PARK, Maryland (AP)—Several blind people were able to get behind the wheel of a new high-tech vehicle designed by Virginia Tech engineering students. Twenty blind people took turns maneuvering the retrofitted dune buggy Friday in a parking lot at the University of Maryland. The test drive capped a National Federation for the Blind summer camp for 200 blind youth from across the country. Virginia Tech was the only university to take on a 2004 challenge from the federation to build a vehicle that could let blind people drive. The buggy they designed uses a laser sensor to figure out the road ahead. A special vibrating vest worn by drivers communicates speed and warns when to stop. And a headset relays voice commands signaling which way to turn.

Police: 6 injured by gunfire near Chicago church

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago police say six people suffered gunshot wounds when someone fired into a crowd outside a church where mourners were gathered. Police say none of the injuries from the Saturday morning shooting outside Gospel Truth Life Changing Ministries on the city's West Side were considered life-threatening. Police believe the shootings were gang related. Chicago police officer Kevin Kilmer says people were at the church for a funeral or wake. He says a gunman approached an "intended target" in a group outside the church and fired multiple shots. Kilmer says the man then opened fire at the crowd as he left the scene. Kilmer says one man was in serious condition. Three other men and two women were in good condition. Police have no one in custody.

Tragedy struck after judge put off security system

CHICAGO (AP)—A federal judge whose mother and husband were shot and killed by a disgruntled litigant said Saturday that she looked into buying a home security system but that it seemed too expensive and "we just didn't do it." "I've gone over in my mind so many times what could have been done differently," U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow said during an American Bar Association panel in Chicago on how judges can keep themselves and their families safe. Lefkow came home the evening of Feb. 28, 2005, to find her husband, Michael Lefkow, 64, and her mother, Donna Humphrey, 89, shot to death in the basement. Bart Ross, an electrician whose medical malpractice suit had been dismissed by Lefkow, killed himself two weeks later and left a note confessing to the crime. DNA evidence and spent shells confirmed Ross was the killer.

Chevron donates land for Code Talkers museum

By FELICIA FONSECA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

FLAGSTAFF, Arizona (AP)—As members of an elite group of Navajo Marines approach their 90s, they know there's little time left to tell the story about how they used their native language to confound the Japanese during World War II.

Their vision for a venue to tell those stories, including the years in which they kept their role a secret, is closer to reality. Chevron Mining Inc. recently donated 208 acres (84 hectares) of land to the association for a museum and veterans center.

Keith Little and his fellow Marines want to preserve the Code Talkers legacy that is better known to Navajos but not as well by the rest of America. And with the recent passing of four Code Talkers within five weeks, including one of the original 29 who helped develop the unbreakable code, there's a greater sense of urgency.

"We want to tell the story, demonstrate it, show it off," said the 85-year-old Little from Crystal, New Mexico, and president of the Navajo Code Talkers Association.



President of Chevron Mining Company Frederick Nelson and Navajo Code Talker Keith Little sign a land transfer deed on Friday, July 31, 2009 near Window Rock, Ariz. The Chevron Corporation donated over 200 acres of land to the Code Talker Association to help build a museum.

Chevron Mining President Fred Nelson signed over the land to the Code Talkers during a ceremony near the tribal capital of Window Rock on Friday. Some 95 percent of the workers at Chevron's McKinley Mine are Navajo, and Nelson said donating the land just off the highway made sense.

"These are some of America's heroes," he said.

Several hundred Navajos served as Code Talkers during the war, using their language to create an unbreakable code

to transmit military messages on enemy tactics, Japanese troop movements and other battlefield information. They took part in every assault the Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945, including the battles of Guadalcanal, Saipan and Iwo Jima.

After the war, the Code Talkers were told to keep their work a secret and forgot about what they learned. Even after their role in the war was declassified in 1968, they remained hesitant to discuss it even with their families.

Asia

Philippines mourns democracy icon Corazon Aquino

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Thousands of Filipinos lined up for hours Sunday to see the body of former President Corazon Aquino—the beloved democracy icon who swept away a dictator and inspired nonviolent resistance to autocratic rule.

Aquino, 76, died early Saturday in a Manila hospital after a yearlong battle with colon cancer.

Thousands trooped to a suburban Manila university stadium where Aquino's coffin, teeming with yellow roses and orchids, was displayed on a platform.

Some mourners openly wept and carried yellow ribbons—the color that symbolized her democratic advocacy. One held an old poster of Ferdinand Marcos, the strongman she helped depose in 1986.

Aquino rose to prominence after the assassination in 1983 of her husband, opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. The uprising she led in 1986 brought down Marcos' repressive 20-year regime and served as an inspiration to nonviolent resistance across the globe, including those that ended communist rule in eastern Europe.

Chinese President Hu Jintao sent condolences to Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said in a statement Sunday.

"Mrs. Aquino is an outstanding leader of the Philippines and she is also a good friend of the Chinese people," Jiang said. "The Chinese government and the Chinese people deeply lament her death."

President Barack Obama was deeply saddened by Aquino's death, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Saturday.

Aquino's supporters had been holding daily prayers for her in churches around the country since she was rushed to intensive care after she stopped eating in late June.

Arroyo, who is on an official visit to the United States, remembered Aquino as a "national treasure" who helped

lead "a revolution to restore democracy and the rule of law to our nation at a time of great peril."

Arroyo declared a 10-day national mourning period Saturday.

Maria Corazon Cojuangco was born on Jan. 25, 1933, into a wealthy, politically powerful family in Paniqui, about 75 miles (120 kilometers) north of Manila.

Her unlikely rise began in 1983 after her husband was gunned down at Manila's international airport moments after soldiers escorted him from a plane on his arrival from exile in the United States to challenge Marcos, his longtime adversary. Investigations showed one of his military escorts was the assassin.

After the murder, Aquino returned to the Philippines and led the largest funeral procession Manila had ever

seen, with crowd estimates as high as 2 million.

The killing enraged many Filipinos and unleashed a broad-based opposition movement that thrust Aquino into the role of national leader.

"I don't know anything about the presidency," she declared in 1985, a year before she agreed to run against Marcos, uniting the fractious opposition, the business community, and later the armed forces to drive the dictator out.

In the wake of that election, the Marcos regime—which declared martial law in 1972 and had jailed Aquino's husband—started to unravel.

But Marcos claimed victory in those polls—widely seen as fraudulent—leading a group of military officers to mutiny against him on Feb. 22 and

holed up with a small force in a military camp in Manila, leading to three days of protests by hundreds of thousands that finally toppled him.

On Feb. 25, Aquino was sworn in as

the Philippines' first female leader and Marcos flew to exile in Hawaii, where he died three years later.

She stepped down in 1992 after serving for six years.

Filipinos set aside divisions to honor Aquino

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—

Thousands of Filipinos lined up in monsoon rains Saturday to pay their last respects to former President Corazon "Cory" Aquino, putting aside deep divisions to honor the icon who ousted a dictator and sustained democracy against great odds.

Aquino's death at age 76 led Filipinos from all walks of life to reflect on the legacy of the accidental opposition leader—whose rise to prominence began only after the 1983 assassination of her politician husband, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

"Unity is a rare thing in our country; we have it now, and adding to the feelings of grief is the wistful realization that it took the passing of Cory to reunite a divided nation," the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* said in its Sunday editorial.

Aquino's passing brought together "rich and poor, old and young, partisan and the apathetic, men and women, soldiers and civilians," it said.

The "people power" uprising Aquino led in 1986 brought down the repressive 20-year regime of Ferdinand Marcos and served as an inspiration to nonviolent resistance across the globe, including those that ended Communist rule in eastern Europe.

"Cory Aquino was beloved by her nation and admired by the world for her extraordinary courage after the assassination of her husband, and later, during her service as president," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in a statement.

Hours after Aquino's death from colon cancer at a Manila hospital, yellow ribbons—her favorite color—sprang up on trees, cars and lamp posts.

As rain drenched Manila's streets, a convoy took Aquino's casket to De La Salle, a Catholic school where thousands lined up for a public viewing.

Her body will lie in state until Monday morning and then be moved to the Manila Cathedral until her funeral on Wednesday. She will be buried beside her husband at Manila Memorial Park.

As the motorcade drove to the school, people stopped on the streets to wave or raise their fingers in an "L" sign for "laban" or "fight" in Filipino, a slogan of Aquino's campaign against Marcos. One priest knelt on the street.

"We were shedding tears in the car," said Aquino's eldest grandson, Jiggy Cruz. "Maybe my lola (grandma) was the miracle. Even in death she was able to unite our people."

Aquino struggled in office to meet high public expectations. Her land redistribution program fell short of



Supporters view the flag-draped coffin of former Philippine President Corazon "Cory" Aquino during its wake at a Catholic university gymnasium at suburban San Juan, east of Manila, Philippines.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Man dies from plague in China, 11 others infected

BEIJING (AP)—Thousands of people have been placed under quarantine in a town in northwest China after a man died of pneumonic plague and 11 others were confirmed infected with the deadly lung infection, health authorities said. The 32-year-old herdsman died in Ziketan in Qinghai province, the provincial health bureau said in a statement posted on its Web site Saturday. It did not say when he died. Most of the others infected are relatives of the deceased and are in stable condition in a hospital, the bureau said. The town of 10,000 people has been placed under quarantine and a team of experts has been sent to the area, it said.

Thai screaming contest

PATTAYA, Thailand (AP)—Short shrieks, high-pitched yelps, and drawn-out wails rang out in Thailand at an international competition aimed at setting a new record for the loudest scream. Russian Sergey Savelyev chimed in at 116.8 decibels—roughly as loud as an ambulance siren—to win Saturday's competition in the seaside town of Pattaya. His effort fell short of breaking the 129-decibel Guinness World Record for the loudest scream set in 2000 in London. "I was only getting warmed up," said 33-year-old Savelyev, who said he'll be back next year to compete in the competition hosted by Thailand's Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum.

6 Pakistani Christians die in riots with Muslims

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Hundreds of rioting Muslims attacked Christians in eastern Pakistan on Saturday, burning and looting homes in a rampage that killed six Christians, including a child, and wounded 10 others in the latest violence against minorities in the conservative Muslim country. The unrest started late Thursday, when members of a banned extremist Muslim organization began torching Christian homes in a village in the Punjabi city of Gojra after allegations that a Quran had been defaced, Federal Minister for Minorities Shahbaz Bhatti said. Violence flared again Saturday, when shots were fired on a peaceful Muslim rally passing by a Christian neighborhood, said local minister Dost Mohammad Khosa. It remained unclear who fired the shots, he added.

The killing enraged many Filipinos and unleashed a broad-based opposition movement that thrust Aquino into the role of national leader.

"I don't know anything about the presidency," she declared in 1985, a year before she agreed to run against Marcos, uniting the fractious opposition, the business community and later the armed forces to drive the dictator out.

Marcos claimed victory in the election—widely seen as fraudulent—leading a group of military officers to mutiny against him on Feb. 22 and hole up with a small force at a military camp in Manila, leading to three days of protests by hundreds of thousands of citizens that finally toppled him.

On Feb. 25, Aquino was sworn in as the Philippines' first female leader and Marcos flew to exile in Hawaii, where he died three years later.

World

Iran state TV confirms arrest of 3 Americans

SULAIMANIYAH, Iraq (AP)—Iran state TV confirmed Saturday that it has detained three Americans who crossed the border from northern Iraq, saying they failed to heed warnings from Iranian guards. Kurdish officials from the self-ruled region in northern Iraq said the three—two men and a woman—were tourists who had mistakenly crossed into Iranian territory Friday while hiking in a mountainous area near the resort town of Ahmed Awwa.

“The Iranians said they have arrested them because they entered their land without legal permission,” said Qubad Talabani, the Kurdish regional government’s envoy to Washington.

Iran’s state owned Arabic-language al-Alam TV station cited a “well-informed source” in the Interior Ministry that the three Americans were detained Friday after crossing into Iran’s Kurdistan province.

The report said the Americans were arrested after they did not heed warnings from Iranian border guards.

State Department spokesman Robert Wood said Saturday that Washington had asked the Swiss, who represent U.S. interests in Tehran, “to confirm these reports with

Missing Americans

Iran has reportedly detained three Americans who were hiking in a mountainous border area in northern Iraq.



Iranian authorities and, if true, to seek consular access” to the detained Americans.

The detentions were the latest irritant in relations between Iran and the United States, which have had no diplomatic ties since 1979 when militant students stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took Americans there hostage for 444 days. The two countries also are locked in

a bitter dispute over Tehran’s nuclear program.

They also came at a sensitive time for the Shiite-dominated Iraqi government as it seeks to balance delicate ties between its U.S. and Iranian allies. Iraqi security forces recently staged a deadly raid on a camp housing an Iranian opposition group that was protected by the American military for years. The raid was applauded by Tehran.

Kurds occupy an area that sprawls across southwestern Turkey, northern Iraq and eastern Iran. The borders are mountainous and not clearly marked, making them popular smuggling routes for centuries.

Iraq’s Kurdish region has been relatively free of the violence that plagues the rest of Iraq. Foreigners often feel freer to move around without security guards in the area, and it’s relatively easy to enter the region from Turkey, particularly by plane. The Kurdish government generally grants visitors visas valid for one week when they arrive at the airport.

The ethnic minority gained autonomy after rising up against Saddam Hussein in 1991, and the region was protected from his forces by a U.S.-British no-fly zone until Saddam’s fall after the 2003 U.S. invasion.

Nigerian official says 700 died in recent violence

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—A Nigerian military official said Saturday that about 700 people were killed in the northern city of Maiduguri during recent fighting between police and a radical Islamist sect. The toll was previously thought to be around 300.

Col. Ben Ahanotu told The AP Saturday that mass burials have begun because bodies were decomposing in the heat. The Islamist compound destroyed this week by government troops is one of the burial sites, he said.

“They’ve got almost 700 bodies,” Ahanotu, who is in charge of security in Maiduguri, said of officials gathering bodies.

“Right there, they had to do a mass burial there because



there are a lot of bodies inside,” he said, pointing to what used to be the Boko Haram sect leader’s compound. It is now smoldering rubble with digging equipment around it.

The fighting affected other northern cities, too. The total death toll is unknown.

Maiduguri, the Borno state

capital, was largely quiet Saturday. Its streets had been cleared of bodies and the blood spilled during five days of fierce fighting. Banks and markets have reopened.

But sporadic violence continued.

In the parking lot of the Umaru Shehu hospital, Associated Press reporters saw the body of a young man with his hands tied behind his back, dead from a bullet through the back of his head.

A hospital official, who asked not to be named because he feared more violence, said five other people had been killed Saturday, their bodies left in the parking lot. He said 172 bodies had been brought to the hospital since Tuesday.

hit, according to the Big Valley Jamboree Web site.

Nashville musician Billy Currington and his band had been performing before the structure collapsed. A member of the band was removed from the wreckage with a badly injured and bloodied arm.

Vancouver-based country music singer Jessie Farrell said the storm and its aftermath were terrifying.

1 dead, 15 injured in Canada stage collapse

CAMROSE, Alberta (AP)—One person was killed and at least 15 were injured after a storm whipped through an outdoor country music festival, causing a stage to collapse.

Strong winds and heavy rain began hitting the Big Valley Jamboree in Camrose, east of Edmonton, around 6 p.m. Saturday, said Camrose Police Chief Darrell Kambeitz. He confirmed the one death and said all 15 in-

jured were taken to hospitals.

“The concert at Big Valley Jamboree was delayed and the concert bowl was being cleared when a small portion of the main stage collapsed,” Kambeitz told The Canadian Press. He said reports of dozens of people being trapped at the site weren’t true.

Hollywood actor Kevin Costner and his band, Modern West, were scheduled to take the stage next when the storm

Police in manhunt for Tel Aviv gay club shooter

JERUSALEM (AP)—

Hundreds of police officers were scouring the streets of Tel Aviv on Sunday in a door-to-door manhunt for a gunman who opened fire on a gay youth club.

A masked man entered a club for gay teens late Saturday, pulled out a pistol and shot in all directions, killing two and injuring 11, police said.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the man then holstered his pistol and fled the scene by foot to the busy streets of Tel Aviv.

Nitzan Horowitz, Israel’s only openly gay lawmaker, said the attack had all the symptoms

of a “hate crime.”

“This is the worst attack ever against the gay community in Israel,” he said. “This act was a blind attack against innocent youths, and I expect the authorities to exercise all means in apprehending the shooter.”

Gays and lesbians enjoy great freedom and liberties in Israel. Tel Aviv in particular is one of the more liberal cities in the world—it holds a festive annual gay parade, rainbow flags are often seen waved from apartment windows and there is even a city-sponsored open house for the community.

However, ultra-Orthodox

Jewish leaders often incite against the community. In conservative Jerusalem, clashes have been frequent between religious and gay activists. In 2005, for instance, an ultra-Orthodox protester stabbed three marchers at a Jerusalem gay parade.

The ultra-Orthodox Shas party, a frequent critic of gays in Israel, issued a statement condemning Saturday’s attack.

The covers of Sunday’s newspapers all featured photos of the bloodstained floors of the youth club and headlines such as “Massacre of the Proud Youth” and “Terror Against the Proud Community.”



AP
Israeli police officers and rescue work in a site of a shooting attack in Tel Aviv, Israel, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009.

US troops now a ‘coalition of one’ in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—

The war in Iraq was truly an American-only effort after Britain and Australia, the last of its international partners, pulled out.

Little attention was paid in Iraq to what effectively ended the so-called coalition of the willing, with the U.S.—as the leader of Multi-National Force, Iraq—letting the withdrawals pass without any public demonstration.

The quiet end of the coalition was a departure from its creation, which saw then-U.S. President George W. Bush court countries for support before and after the March 2003 invasion.

“We’re grateful to those partners who contributed in the past and we look forward to working with them in the future,” military spokesman Army Lt. Col. Mark Ballesteros told The Associated Press in an e-mail.

At its height, the coalition numbered about 300,000 soldiers from 38 countries—250,000 from the United States, about 40,000 from Britain, and the rest ranging from 2,000

Australians to 70 Albanians.

But most of the United States’ traditional European allies, those who supported actions in Afghanistan and the previous Iraq war, sat it out.

It effectively ended this week with Friday’s departure of Australian troops and the expiration of the mandate for the tiny remaining British contingent after Iraq’s parliament adjourned without agreeing to allow the troops to stay to protect southern oil ports and train Iraqi troops.

The U.S. military, though, said the withdrawals did not mean it was going it alone in Iraq.

“We haven’t lost our international partners. Rather, there are representatives from around the world here in various capacities such as NATO, military advisers, law enforcement and construction workers,” said Army Col. John R. Robinson, a military spokesman at the U.S. headquarters outside Baghdad.

Critics said the tiny contingents that partnered with the coalition, such as Estonia, Albania and Romania, gave the U.S. token international support for the invasion.

the last 12 Australian soldiers who had been embedded with U.S. units were flown out of Baghdad on Tuesday, three days ahead of the deadline. A security detachment of about 100 soldiers will remain to protect embassy personnel.

Britain withdrew its remaining 100 to 150 mostly Navy personnel to Kuwait, though was hopeful they might return.

“We are exploring with the Iraqi Government the possibility of resuming some or all of our planned naval activity in advance of ratification,” the British Defense Ministry said in a statement released Saturday.

The coalition had a troubled history and began to crumble within months of the U.S.-led invasion as many countries faced political and social unrest over an unpopular war.

Australia’s military commander in the Middle East, Maj. Gen. Mark Kelly, said Friday

Health & Fitness

Too busy to squeeze in a workout? You don't know hot squats

By VICKY HALLETT
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Last September, Brigitte Polmar and Jenny Hein were doing the coffee and girl talk thing on Hein's porch in Ashburn, Va., when the duo had an incredible revelation: They both regularly did squats while styling their hair.

No one had ever told them that tush-strengthening and blow-drying belong together, but for the busy moms looking to make every minute count, the partnership was perfectly natural. "I'd been trying to squeeze it in," explains Polmar, 38. Realizing that there were countless other ways to make exercise part of life's daily chores and that there might be an online business opportunity for such advice, they rushed to see if the domain name Squeezeitin.com was available. It was.

Hein, 36, has a background as a certified fitness instructor, which has come in handy for demonstrating moves, while Polmar's former career in TV means the production values are higher than you'd expect from a couple of self-described "crazy moms from the 'burbs."

The free site is just over a month old, but there are already enough exercises to keep you sweating in any room of the house—hair-styling "hot squats" in the bathroom, "bag some biceps" curls with groceries in the kitchen, "get a leg up" lifts while lying on the living room rug playing with your kid. Their cardio solution? Running up and down your stairs. If you can manage 10 minutes at a time, three times a day, that's equivalent to setting aside a straight half-hour.

They recognize, of course, that this concept isn't entirely novel. Loads of folks engage in unexpected exercise outside the gym, whether it's dancing around to their favorite song as they get dressed or balancing on one leg while waiting to cross the street.

My version is the Metro platform pace. Instead of standing still until my train arrives, I race the clock to see how many times I can traverse the platform before the lights start blinking. One platform length takes about 250 steps; that's about an eighth of a mile.

That's nothing compared with the kind of ground Rep. Tim Johnson manages to cover over on Capitol Hill. Politico just dubbed the Illinois Republican "the walking congressman" for his habit of handling absolutely everything on the move: cellphone calls, briefings about bills, staff meetings. "You can use that time to sit, or do what people would be advised to do more: move," he told me. The fitness buff schedules gym visits, too, but his workday strolls are what he calls his "incidental exercise." And it turns out to be not so incidental. He estimates it at two extra hours of movement a day.



THE WASHINGTON POST
You're not too busy to squeeze in a workout. Jenny Hein, right, and Vicky Hallett exercise.



THE WASHINGTON POST
Jenny Hein demonstrates exercises she and a friend have developed for their Web site.



THE WASHINGTON POST
Jenny Hein, right, shows Vicky Hallett moves that can be used in the bathroom, the kitchen and even in front of the television.

But would you believe that Hein and Polmar can pack in even more than that? I spent a recent afternoon with the ladies so we could squeeze it in together, and they launched into exercise ideas immediately after hello.

First up: the five anywhere moves. "I do the butt squeeze in the grocery store all the time," Hein raves. "No one can tell what I'm doing. And by the time I'm done shopping, I can feel it." Same goes for isometric abs (pulling your belly button in and holding), shoulder raises, calf raises and the ultimate stealth strengthener, kegels (those pelvic contractions that ward off incontinence and boost sexual function).

If you're trying to kill a minute near a countertop—say, while waiting for the microwave to buzz—Hein suggests gripping the edge and pounding out two sets of 12 elevated push-ups. Or maybe pick up a can of soup in each hand and extend your arms out to the side while engaging your core. No, they're not that heavy, but the move will be effective if you focus on form. "It has to be slow and controlled, because you're not using a lot of weight," says Hein, who notes that it's helpful to hold positions for three seconds (or the time it takes to say, "Squeeze. It. In.").

We put away Hein's dishes while rising onto our toes and we cleaned up her kids' toys by lunging to the ground and tossing them into a trunk. I let Hein handle her own dirty laundry, but she showed off how she squats to retrieve each item from the hamper. When we headed over to her living room sofa, we didn't take a seat; we stuck our butts out as if we were going to and lingered a few inches above the cushion.

"If you feel like it, pulse," suggested Hein, while adding a slight bounce to her squat. She apparently often feels like it: She also recommends pulsing in a lunge position while sweeping the floor with your broom.

It may sound a tad silly, but that's what makes it appealing to kids, too—or at least Hein's 7-year-old son, Conor. He adorably reported to me that he's such a fan of squeezing it in that he's come up with his own moves, including one he does while kneeling at church. And of course, seeing Mommy (or Daddy) exercise throughout the day should help a child recognize how important it is to stay healthy.

The women hope everyone will learn the lesson that muscles are always eager for some attention. "A lot of people think if you don't go to the gym, you fail. But every movement is a success," Polmar says.

And although the site is still in its infancy, Polmar and Hein have plans to pump it up with ideas for squeezing it in on the playground, at the office, in the car and more. It seems they're even coming up with ways for me to add exercise to my reporting. As I grabbed my notebook off a table on my way out of Hein's house, she said, "You know, you could squat while you're doing that."

1 in 3 Americans likes to nap, survey finds

By KAREN KAPLAN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

If you find yourself fighting the urge to catch 40 winks in the middle of the day, maybe it's time to start snoozing and stop worrying about what your boss will think. You might be surprised how many co-workers will join you.

Thirty-four percent of Americans take a nap on a typical day, according to the latest Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends survey. For men older than 50, the prevalence of napping was 41 percent. The most enthusiastic nappers in the survey were blacks—half of those surveyed acknowledged taking a nap in the previous 24 hours.

Napping for as little as 20 or 30 minutes can "improve mood, alertness and performance," according to the National Sleep Foundation. And today's nappers are in good company—Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Winston Churchill, John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan shared the habit, the foundation says.

Napping is widespread among people in all U.S. regions, according to the survey. It's a pastime of city dwellers, suburbanites and folks in rural areas. Single people are just as likely to nap as married people; so are parents, childless adults and empty-nesters.

Not surprisingly, people who reported trouble sleeping the previous night were more likely to take a nap (41 percent) compared with those who slept well (32 percent). Exercise also seemed to make people sleepy—37 percent of people who recently had engaged in a vigorous workout said they napped, compared with 30 percent of loafers.

Napping crossed all income levels, but it was most popular among people earning less than \$30,000 a year—42 percent of them said they had napped in the past day. People earning between \$75,000 and \$99,000 apparently were too busy to nap—only 21 percent of them did so—but once income rose past \$100,000, napping became an affordable luxury, indulged by 33 percent of those surveyed.

People with jobs were slightly more apt to nap on weekends, while people who were unemployed or retired showed a preference for weekday naps.

The survey found that 18 percent of respondents who described themselves as "very happy" had napped in the previous day, compared with 24 percent of folks who said they were "pretty happy" and 46 percent who said they were "not too happy." Maybe that's partly because people who reported distress about their financial situation (regardless of income) were twice as likely to have trouble sleeping at night.

Life & Style

Madonna shares spiritual awakening in Israel paper

By MATTI FRIEDMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

JERUSALEM (AP)—After a long career as a singer, dancer, new-age seeker and megacelebrity, Madonna added a new item to her resume Friday—Israeli newspaper correspondent.

An article in Friday's edition of Israel's biggest daily, *Yediot Ahronot*, bears the Material Girl's byline. It describes her spiritual awakening

upon discovering Jewish mysticism, called Kabbalah, after which, she writes, "all the puzzle pieces started falling into place."

Madonna is bringing her Sticky & Sweet tour to Israel in September, which no doubt explains the timing of her journalism debut here. But she also has ties to Israel and Judaism through

More Mozart: 2 new pieces being unveiled



This is a Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2000 file photo of a statue of famed Austrian composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart stands in front of a house in Salzburg Austria.

SALZBURG, Austria (AP)—The huge musical puzzle that is Mozart is about to be expanded by two potentially important pieces.

More than two centuries after his death, two additional works have recently been identified as being composed by the Austrian master. While the pieces might have been played before, Sunday will be the first time they will be performed as compositions of the popular prodigy.

The venue is Salzburg, Amadeus' birthplace and the city that nurtured his early musical career. The International Mozarteum Foundation will officially present the piano pieces at a hotly awaited event that will feature a live performance by Austrian pianist Florian Birsak.

Officials, protecting the works like state secrets after officially announcing their discovery last week, have said only that they were created by a young Mozart and are contained in a manuscript owned by the Mozarteum for more than 100 years.

"These are two substantial pieces of piano music, composed before Mozart's 10th birthday," Ulrich Leisinger, the Mozarteum's head of research, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

They were identified as part of a larger investigation of the foundation's Mozart-related materials that include letters and documents, but also more than a hundred music manuscripts—

some in the hand of the composer, others transcribed by contemporaries.

The foundation, established in 1880 and a prime source for Mozart-related matters, seeks to preserve the composer's heritage and find new approaches for analyzing him.

Posthumous discoveries of Mozart pieces are rare—but not unheard of.

In September, Leisinger announced that a French library had found another previously unknown piece of music handwritten by Mozart.

That work, described as the preliminary draft of a musical composition, was found in Nantes in western France as library staff members were going through its archives. Leisinger says the library contacted his foundation for help authenticating the work.

There have been up to 10 Mozart discoveries of such importance over the past 50 years, Leisinger said at the time.

Still, experts are fascinated by news of the most recently announced find.

The Juilliard School's L. Michael Griffel called it "very exciting" and a "thrill for intellectuals."

"It's always so impressive when a new piece of Mozart is discovered because it adds to the total picture that we have of him and of his development as a composer," said Griffel, chair of the renowned institution's music history department.

Once the works are finally released, it will be important to closely examine both the technique and the substance for potential clues about later pieces, Griffel said.

"Sometimes, a little piece is transformed into something bigger."

Determining whether a work is authentic can be quite a challenge.

Charles McGuire, associate professor of musicology at the respected Oberlin Conservatory of Music, said it involved carrying out handwriting and stylistic analyses—among other things.

Sometimes, the hard work certainly pays off.

"Discoveries like this—they put a thrill into classical music," McGuire said when asked to comment on the Mozarteum's announcement.

Mozart lived from 1756 to 1791.

He started playing the keyboard at age 3, and by his fifth birthday was already composing minuets. Between then and Dec. 5, 1791, when he died of rheumatic fever, he wrote 626 works.



AP Madonna performs at the Valle Hovin Stadium in Oslo Norway Tuesday July 28. 2009.

her involvement with the Los Angeles-based Kabbalah Center, whose new-age version of Judaism's ancient mystic tradition has become popular among members of Hollywood's A-list.

The 50-year-old pop icon has taken the

Hebrew name Esther and came to Israel on private pilgrimages in 2004 and 2007 along with other Kabbalah devotees.

In the article, Madonna, who was raised Roman Catholic, describes hearing about Kabbalah for the first time

Princess wins suit against German publisher

BERLIN (AP)—A Hamburg court has ordered a German publisher to pay Sweden's Princess Madeleine \$560,000 in damages for fabricating stories about her, the parties involved said Friday.

Sonnenverlag GmbH & Co KG was ordered to pay the damages by the Hamburg state court, which was ruling on an appeal against a lower court's 2007 award of euro300,000 in damages against the publishing house.

The publisher's magazines carried false reports about the 27-year-old princess being engaged and pregnant, among other things, her attorney Matthias Prinz told The AP.

Madeleine has been dating boyfriend Jonas Bergstrom since 2002, but the couple is neither engaged nor married, nor do they have any children.

Sonnenverlag puts out a raft of magazines in Germany, and the reports were carried in two weekly women's publications, *Frau mit Herz* (Woman with Heart) and *Welt der Frau*, (Woman's World), Prinz said.

"There were scores of untruthful articles about my client in the publica-



AP In this Dec. 10, 2007 file picture, Swedish Princess Madeleine is shown at the Nobel banquet at the Town Hall, Stockholm, Sweden.

tions," he said.

The Hamburg state court confirmed that the judgment had been made Thursday, but did not provide further details.

at a dinner party in Los Angeles while pregnant with her daughter Lourdes, who is now 12. She had recently completed a star turn in the movie *Evita*, she writes, but "still felt like something was missing in my life."

She went to her first class, taught by a teacher named Eitan, after years of practicing yoga and reading about Buddhism, Taoism and early Christianity.

"I heard what he had to say and I knew at this moment my life would never be the same," she writes in the article, which the paper published both in Hebrew and in the original - and apparently unedited - English.

"Life no longer seemed like a series of Random events," she writes. "I also began to see that being Rich and Famous wasn't going to bring me lasting fulfillment and that it was not the end of the journey."

The Kabbalah Center's devotees have included other celebrities such as Demi Moore, Ashton Kutcher and Britney Spears. Many mainstream Jewish scholars see the Center's self-help teachings, its sale of Kabbalah-themed merchandise and its embrace by non-Jewish pop stars as a perversion of Judaism's ancient and secretive mystic tradition.

Some rabbis were particularly incensed by Madonna's song, "Isaac," about the revered 16th-century Kabbalist Rabbi Isaac Luria, which featured on her 2005 album, "Confessions on a Dance Floor."

Jewish tradition has long held that Kabbalah is so complicated and so easily misunderstood that students may only begin to approach it with a strong background in Jewish law and only after age 40. The discipline's elements include the study of mystical texts, prayer and meditation in an attempt to draw closer to the divine.

The criticism appears to have had no effect on Madonna's popularity among Israelis. Originally scheduled to give one concert in Tel Aviv, Madonna added a second after the first show quickly sold out.

Madonna's last concert in Israel was in 1993, during her "Girly Show" tour.

The Swedish Royal Court said in a statement that the court ruled the articles were "untrue and degrading."

"Princess Madeleine intends to donate the money she is finally awarded to charity," the statement said.

Sonnenverlag's parent company, Baden-Baden based KLAMBT media group, also confirmed the ruling in a short statement.

"The amount of the court-ordered damages and the related charges are in the range expected by the KLAMBT media group," the statement said. "Appropriate accounting provisions were already undertaken in 2004."

Company spokesman Jonas Schmieder said he could not provide more information beyond the release, and declined to say whether the company would attempt another appeal.

Madeleine Therese Amelie Josefine - the Princess of Sweden, Duchess of Halsingland and Gastrikland - is the youngest child of King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia.

She has two older siblings, Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Carl Philip.

Jackson's personal doctor was in financial trouble

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dr. Conrad Murray was in dire financial shape when he signed on as Michael Jackson's personal physician earlier this year at \$150,000 a month.

The Las Vegas cardiologist owed a total of at least \$780,000 in judgments against him and his medical practice, outstanding mortgage payments on his house, delinquent student loans, child support and credit cards.

Court records chronicling Murray's woes in Las Vegas, where authorities searched his home this week as part of a manslaughter investigation into Jackson's death, might help explain why - beyond the chance to get close to a celebrity - Murray seized the chance to keep the pop star healthy through a series of concerts in London.

But more than that, the financial pressures on Murray could help prosecutors establish a motive if he ends up facing charges.

"Here he is, dealing with one of the most famous people in the world. There may have been a great deal of pressure to do what Michael Jackson wanted, give him the drugs he wanted, treat him the way Michael Jackson wanted to be treated, even if it wasn't in keeping with medical protocol," said Steve Cron, a criminal defense attorney and adjunct professor at Pepperdine University's law school.

Authorities investigating Jackson's death at his rented Los Angeles mansion believe Murray gave the star a fatal dose of the powerful anesthetic propofol to help him sleep, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still going on.

Propofol is commonly used for surgery and is not meant as a sleep agent or to be given in private homes. Because of its potency, only trained anesthesia professionals are supposed to administer it, and patients are supposed to be constantly monitored.

If prosecutors bring charges, Murray's financial trouble "does potentially provide evidence of good motive for financial-based crimes, including prescribing when there is not a medical necessity," said Rebecca Lonergan, a University of Southern California law



AP
Authorities leave the scene after executing a search warrant at the Red Rock Canyon Country Club residence of Dr. Conrad Murray, Tuesday, July 28, 2009, in Las Vegas. Murray is currently under investigation for his alleged role in the death of pop icon Michael Jackson.

professor and former federal prosecutor of health care fraud cases.

Murray, 56, has not spoken publicly since Jackson's June 25 death. His lawyer, Edward Chernoff, has said the doctor did not prescribe anything that "should have" killed Jackson.

Murray was hired through Jackson's promoter in May, as his bleak financial picture threatened to worsen. He was under court orders to pay more than \$363,000 for equipment for his heart clinic, and was ordered in April to repay \$71,000 in student loans dating to the 1980s. Two law-

suits claiming he owes \$240,000 more for unpaid equipment are pending in Nevada courts.

Also, Murray's 5,268-square-foot home near the 18th hole of a golf course is in "pre-foreclosure" after he failed to make payments on his \$1.66 million loan, records show. He stopped paying the \$15,000-per-month mortgage in December and could lose the home by November, said Mary Hunt, the foreclosure officer handling the case.

Neither Jackson nor AEG Live, the promoter for the London concerts that was prepared to pay him \$150,000 a

Web site helps time mid-movie bathroom breaks

NEW YORK (AP)—The mid-movie dash to the restroom can turn us into calculating Usain Bolt wannabes: Ah, this looks like a lull—time to dash.

When we return to our seats, we pray the answer to "What did I miss?" isn't "Darth Vader is really Luke's father" or "the girlfriend is really a guy."

The Web site RunPee.com can help with such anxious guess work.

The site provides recommended opportunities to race to the restroom. It tells you when the action or romance wanes, and gives you a cue ("Baby O.J. is taken from Bruno") for your exit.

The site tells you how long you've got and even summarizes what you missed. Since early July, RunPee.com is available as an iPhone app, too.

Launched last August, RunPee took off earlier this summer. It's been one of the season's runaway hits—a clever idea that has spawned a lot of word-of-mouth from moviegoers.

"Helping your bladder enjoy going to the movies as much as you do," the site boasts.

ON THE NET

<http://runpee.com>

On Friday, he's planning a double-feature of "Funny People"—which runs nearly 2 1/2 hours—and "Aliens in the Attic."

"I never intended to refocus my energies on this," says Florio. "And I never thought that I'd be seeing every single movie that comes out, either."

The site averages 3,000-6,000 visitors a day, Florio says. The iPhone app is available on iTunes for \$1. It's not a huge moneymaker (Florio estimates he'll make \$800 this month) but is providing him a little extra cash.

He believes that not only do moviegoers benefit from the service, but the

ater owners do, too.

"Lots and lots of people comment: 'Ah! I can get that 64-ounce drink now!'" Florio says.

Florio designed the site to be wiki-based with break times submitted by users, but it's turned out that he's done most of the work. Finding the right moments and recording the correct time is more work than it might sound—most moviegoers leave their stopwatches at home.

"It's not fun," says Florio. "I would literally have to pay someone to do this."

Generally, the better the movie is, the harder it is to find a break. The 96-minute "Up," for example, is one film where no bathroom break is advisable. But there are suggested options—after all, movies that children flock to are the kind where bathroom breaks are often unavoidable.

There are, of course, limits to the usefulness of RunPee. But it's also found friends in cyberspace like WhereToWee.com, a site in the works that tells you where the nearest restroom is.

month, paid Murray for the two months the doctor worked for the pop star, according to Chernoff.

"Dr. Murray has lost the ability to make a living as a result of this investigation," Chernoff said. "His hope is he can forestall foreclosure until he can once again begin working as a doctor."

Murray's cresting financial woes fit into a history of money problems. He filed for bankruptcy in California in 1992 and had a string of tax liens in California and Arizona between 1993 and 2003. Also, a former business

partner in an energy-drink distribution venture claimed Murray owed him \$68,000.

John Thomas, distributor of a drink called Pit Bull, said that in 2005 and 2006 Murray had the rights to distribute the product in Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean island nation where Murray lived and worked before coming to the United States in the 1980s to study medicine.

The drink never gained popularity there. Murray paid his bill for a first shipment, then didn't pay for three subsequent shipments, Thomas said.

Stanley Kwan tackles sci-fi after 4-year break

HONG KONG (AP)—Famed Hong Kong art-house director Stanley Kwan is returning to film-making after a four-year break with a sci-fi movie about a group of Chinese acrobats from the 1930s who travel to the present.

The movie follows the acrobats' relationships with a group of acting students in 2009 Shanghai, Kwan told The Associated Press. He spoke by phone Saturday from the Chinese financial capital, where he is shooting the 8 million Chinese yuan (\$1.2 million) production.

Australian-born Christopher Doyle, who helped craft the moody visuals of many Wong Kar-wai films, is the cinematographer.

The 52-year-old director said he crafted the project, which he describes as "'The Matrix' meets song and dance," to help a group of Chinese acting and music students he met while working on a musical. The film is called "Dancing with Your Heart" in Chinese but doesn't have an English title yet.

"Very few of the graduates of Chinese performing arts schools have the chance to start a career in performing arts," Kwan said. He said he is halfway through the shoot and expects to finish the movie in late August.

Kwan's last film was the 2005 romance "Everlasting Regret," starring Hong Kong pop star Sammi Cheng. He is best known for his 1987 drama "Rouge" and his 1992 biopic of late Chinese actress Ruan Lingyu, "Center Stage," which earned its star Maggie Cheung best actress honors at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Kwan's 2001 gay romance "Lan

Yu" won four prizes at the Chinese-language equivalent of the Oscars, Taiwan's Golden Horse Awards, including best director for Kwan and best actor for China's Liu Ye.

During his break, Kwan developed projects for the new Chinese production company J.A. Media and produced the 2008 Hong Kong-Taiwan romance "Miao Miao."

But after his stint on the business side of film-making, "I realized I like directing my own movies more," he said.

Like many fellow Hong Kong directors, Kwan is now shooting on the mainland, a booming movie market flush with funds. He said working with Chinese investors can be a difficult process because many are new to the film industry.

"Many of the investors are entrepreneurs. Their main line of business is real estate or coal mines or finance. They don't know about the work flow of a movie," Kwan said.

The mainland Chinese market is also now dominated by big-budget historical and kung fu epics, which aren't Kwan's forte. Kwan said in a 2002 interview he couldn't imagine making a kung fu film because he might be sidelined by the action coordinator.

Kwan said Saturday he believes the Chinese market will evolve beyond its focus on certain genres.

"When the Hong Kong market was booming, you could make every kind of movie. You didn't have to make a big-budget movie. You could make a small-budget movie. You could make a movie with a medium level of investment," he said.

Academy's 'Keeper of the Oscars' dead at 48

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steven Miessner, the motion picture academy's devoted "Keeper of the Oscars" who each year donned his signature white gloves to get the golden statuettes ready for their closeup before a worldwide audience, is dead at age 48.

Miessner died at his home on Wednesday of a heart attack.

Leading up to the Academy Award ceremony, Miessner would take loving custody of the Oscars as they arrived from the R.S. Owens foundry in Chicago, logging them into a computer file, keeping them safe and secure, and then on the big night, giving the coveted statuettes one last rubdown backstage before handing them to the show's trophy presenters.

He would then record which individually-numbered Oscar was presented to whom and later, arrange with the winners to get their statuettes properly engraved.

Academy colleagues, stagehands

and reporters alike marveled at Miessner's dedication and enthusiasm as he worked with the statuettes—a job that was actually a year-round process, according to Leslie Unger, spokeswoman for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

"He maintained the computer files on the current whereabouts, so far as can be known, of every Oscar ever awarded," Unger said. "He also was the liaison with R.S. Owens when a vintage statuette needed refurbishing."

In addition to his Oscar duties, Miessner was an executive assistant to academy executive director Bruce Davis and president Sid Ganis.

A member of the academy staff since 2002, Miessner "was central to the day-to-day operations of the organization," said Unger.

He is survived by his mother, Virginia Miessner, a sister and a brother. Funeral services were pending.

Police in Parker-Broderick case arraigned in Ohio



Actress Sarah Jessica Parker and her husband actor Matthew Broderick arrive for the 81st Academy Awards in this Feb. 22, 2009 file photo taken in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

CINCINNATI (AP)—Two Ohio police chiefs accused of snooping on the surrogate mother for actors Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick were charged with several felonies on Friday.

Special prosecutor T. Shawn Hervey said the men conspired to take items from the woman's eastern Ohio home to sell to celebrity photographers.

At an arraignment Friday, Martins Ferry Police Chief Barry Carpenter was charged with two counts of burglary, one count of receiving stolen property, one count of theft in office, one count of unauthorized use of property or servic-

es and one count of tampering with evidence.

Bridgeport Police Chief Chad Dojack, 30, was charged with two counts of complicity to burglary and one count of complicity to receiving stolen property.

Both men pleaded not guilty and are free on their own recognizance. Neither of the men could be reached for comment. There are no residential telephone listings for them.

Carpenter could face 21 1/2 years in prison if convicted on all charges, and Dojack could face up to 14 1/2 years if convicted on all charges against him.

Martins Ferry Mayor Phil Wallace said he gave Carpenter

the day off on Friday and still considered him the working police chief. Wallace said he planned to meet with Carpenter Monday morning and would make a decision later next week on whether to suspend the chief.

The mayor declined to comment specifically on the allegations but indicated he was concerned about the scandal reflecting poorly on his community.

"I'm really disappointed that things have to happen like this in a small town. It's bad, and I wish it wouldn't have happened. But it did, so we've just got to put up with it," Wallace said.

A message was left for Halls at his office Friday.

Zhang's credits also include "Raise the Red Lantern," "Red Sorghum," "To Live," "Ju Dou," "Hero" and the "House of Flying Daggers."

Ticket prices to increase at Walt Disney World

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Walt Disney World is raising the ticket prices for its theme parks.

Disney last raised its admission prices in August 2008.

The Orlando Sentinel reported Friday that the base price of a one-day, one-park adult ticket will increase from \$75 to \$79. The same ticket for a child between the ages of 3 and 9 will go from \$63 to \$68. Prices for the resort's multiday ticket packages also will rise. The new prices will go into effect Sunday.

The ticket increases come a day after the Walt Disney Co. announced its third-quarter profit dropped 26 percent, as slower DVD sales pushed its movie studio into the red.

Sony Pictures invests in new Zhang Yimou movie

HONG KONG (AP)—The art house division of Sony Pictures Entertainment says it has invested in Chinese director Zhang Yimou's first film since he designed the Beijing Olympics' opening and closing ceremonies last year.

Sony Pictures Classics said it formed a "production partnership" with Zhang for his adaptation of the Coen brothers' 1984 movie "Blood Simple," and has bought its distribution rights in North America, Latin America, Australia and New Zealand.

Bebe Lerner, a publicist for Sony Pictures Classics, declined to say how much the company was investing.

The comedy-thriller is about the owner of a Chinese noodle shop whose plan to kill his cheating wife and her lover

"spins out of control after the introduction of a gun into the lives of characters more accustomed to knives and swords," Sony Pictures Classics said in a statement sent to The Associated Press late Friday.

The 1984 original starring Frances McDormand is about a Texas bar owner who hires a private detective to kill his wife and her lover. The movie won the Grand Jury Prize for best film at the United States Film Festival—the predecessor to the Sundance Film Festival—helping establish Joel and Ethan Coen's reputations.

The brothers went on to make a string of successful films including "Fargo," "The Big Lebowski," "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" and "No Country for Old Men," which won Os-

car for best picture and best director.

Beijing New Picture Film Co. publicist Ping Xue said Thursday Zhang's adaptation—starring Chinese actor Sun Honglei, comedian Xiao Shenyang and actress Yan Ni—was currently filming in Beijing and will be released in December.

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" producer Bill Kong is serving the same role on Zhang's new film, which is called "San Qiang Pai An Jing Qi" in Chinese but doesn't have an English title yet.

The Chinese director, whose last film was the 2006 Chinese imperial court drama "Curse of the Golden Flower," is also scheduled to direct a gala celebrating the 60th anniversary of communist China on Oct. 1.

Burns' new PBS film reawakened childhood memory

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Ken Burns says working on a documentary about America's national parks reawakened a long-forgotten memory about a painful time in his childhood.

Burns was filming in Yosemite for PBS' "The National Parks: America's Best Idea,"

when he recalled a 1959 visit with his father to Shenandoah National Park in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. Burns, then 6 years old, said it was a difficult period for the family because of his mother's fight against cancer.

Burns told the Television

Critics Association on Saturday that the splendor of Yosemite allowed him to reclaim memories of the trip, including hiking with his dad in Shenandoah.

Burns' films include "The Civil War" and "Baseball." The six-part "National Parks" will premiere Sept. 27 on PBS.

Messages seeking comment from Bridgeport Mayor John Callarik were left at his office Friday. Bridgeport police wouldn't comment on whether Dojack is still on the job.

Hervey said that Carpenter is alleged to have entered the home of Michelle Ross and removed items from the home identifying Ross as the surrogate mother. Along with Dojack, Carpenter attempted to sell the items to photographers, Hervey said.

Carpenter, 32, also is accused of using his office to commit the crimes, destroying evidence and illegally using a law enforcement computer system, Hervey said.

"It is extremely troubling that the persons sworn to uphold the law and protect the public are now charged with violating those oaths," Hervey said.

He also said it was troubling that society "is so celebrity crazed that a market exists and tens of thousands of dollars are exchanged for pictures and stories of celebrity scandal."

"Unfortunately, the city and Belmont County are now living their own Hollywood soap opera," the prosecutor said.

The alleged burglary took place in mid-May in the eastern Ohio town of Martins Ferry, and the allegations against Carpenter and Dojack surfaced about a week later.

Ross is no longer believed to be staying in the Martins Ferry area, officials have said.

The surrogate mother, who gave birth to twins June 22 at an Ohio hospital, was not home at the time of the alleged burglary.

Publicist Simon Halls has said Parker and Broderick "have complete faith in the legal system."

A message was left for Halls at his office Friday.

Man putting affairs in order writes to an old sweetheart

DEAR ABBY: A few weeks ago I had surgery, and they found cancer. I have put my affairs in order to ease the burden on my children.

I have written my will, made a list of those to be notified after my death, wrote my obituary and requested in which newspaper I would like it printed. I have also listed all my assets and where they are.

I have only one question: After my death I would like a former high school girlfriend notified, and I have written a letter to be given to her. She has been married to the same man for 40 years, and we have not been in contact.

I always had special feelings for her and would like to tell her so and thank her for the great times we had together. I would not want to create problems in her marriage, but would like to send her a letter of thanks and appreciation.

What do you think? Should I leave well enough alone, or let her know what a special person she was in my life?



Dear Abby

FINAL REQUEST IN SOUTH MILWAUKEE

DEAR FINAL REQUEST: I am sorry about your sad prognosis. I doubt that having the letter sent after your death would "cause problems" in that lady's marriage. And frankly, I'm sure it would be a gift to her that would make her smile for the rest of her life. You have my blessings to send it.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I are having a disagreement about flirting with other people. He thinks it's OK to "harmlessly flirt" as long as the person knows you are in a committed relationship. I think that flirting could lead to a misunderstanding that may cause problems in the relationship.

I trust my boyfriend, but I don't trust other women and never have. I asked him to stop doing it, and he has assured me it won't happen again.

Now I'm wondering if I overreacted. Do you think flirting is harmless, or do you see it as a potential problem for the relationship?

LAURA IN ALABAMA

DEAR LAURA: It's a potential problem for the relationship if one of the parties is insecure and regards it as a threat. It's also a potential problem if the flirting persists in spite of the fact that your boyfriend knows it makes you insecure. Regardless of whether this romance leads to marriage, however, you really should try to understand why you have such negative feelings about other women because those feelings aren't healthy, and may not be justified.

DEAR ABBY: I loaned a treasured book to my close friend "Serena." When her younger sister moved out of state four months later, Serena told me the book had been accidentally packed up with the girl's things. She promised to buy me a new copy, but didn't.

It has now been three years, and my \$20 book still has not been replaced. One day I noticed it on Serena's bookshelf. I don't want to demand she give it back for fear of seeming petty, but I really loved the book and want it back. How do I handle this?

SERIOUS READER IN KANSAS

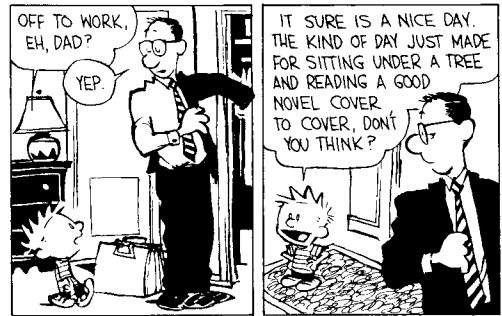
DEAR SERIOUS READER: The next time you are at Serena's, walk over to her bookshelf and exclaim, "Serena! I guess you were mistaken about my book being sent to your sister's because here it is!" Then take it off the shelf and take it with you. And in the future, write your name on the inside cover of your books before lending them to anyone.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

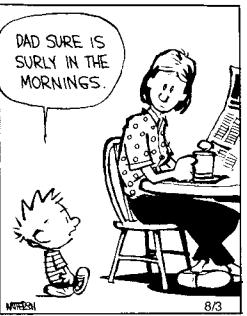
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Watterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

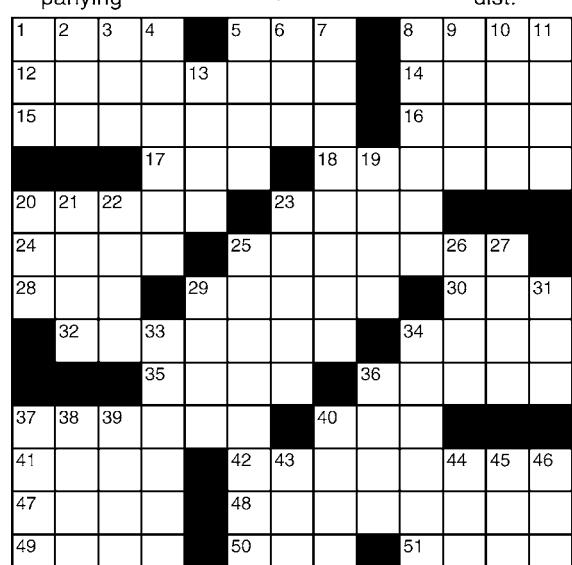


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36	Things	37	Scabbard	5	Wire	22	Very	energetic
1	Mob	37	Scabbard	40	Tavern	measures	23	"Garden	of Earthly
2	scene	41	Suburban	42	Erstwhile	6	Sch.	Delights"	Delights"
3	Speed-	setting	42	Kept	7	Unman-	painter	painter	painter
4	ometer	43	Erstwhile	43	tabs	ageable	25	Trust-	worthy
5	stat	44	Kept	44	on	fear	26	Fully	fill
6	Venue for	45	Kept	45	At full	8	Colorado	27	Grad
7	Michael	46	Kept	46	strength	9	city	29	Skip
8	Phelps	47	Kept	47	Kept	10	Shrek,	31	Egos'
9	Horrifying	48	Kept	48	Kept	11	e.g.	32	counter-
10	act	49	Kept	49	Kept	12	Fasting	33	parts
11	Desire	50	Kept	50	Kept	13	time	34	African
12	Algebra	51	Kept	51	Kept	14	Rubik's	35	country
13	data	52	Kept	52	Kept	15	brain-	36	Jog sans
14	Deserve	53	Kept	53	Kept	16	teaser	37	togs
15	Couric's	54	Kept	54	Kept	17	19	38	Metrical
16	network	55	Kept	55	Kept	18	Charitable	39	foot
17	Writing	56	Kept	56	Kept	19	format	40	Dance
18	pad	57	Kept	57	Kept	20	Shrek,	41	lesson
19	Aquarium	58	Kept	58	Kept	21	e.g.	42	George-
20	buildup	59	Kept	59	Kept	22	Fasting	43	town
21	Telephone	60	Kept	60	Kept	23	time	44	athlete
22	inventor	61	Kept	61	Kept	24	Rubik's	45	Basin
23	Italy's	62	Kept	62	Kept	25	brain-	46	accessory
24	silhouette	63	Kept	63	Kept	26	teaser	47	Actor
25	Another	64	Kept	64	Kept	27	1.U.K.	48	Pitt
26	name for	65	Kept	65	Kept	28	fliers	49	43
27	Taiwan	66	Kept	66	Kept	29	Judge	50	Insepara-
28	Droop	67	Kept	67	Kept	30	Lance	51	ble
29	Desert	68	Kept	68	Kept	31	3 Bobby of	52	Num-
30	haven	69	Kept	69	Kept	32	hockey	53	bered
31	Baba	70	Kept	70	Kept	33	4 Male	54	hwy.
32	Counter-	71	Kept	71	Kept	34	meower	55	Lower
33	top	72	Kept	72	Kept	35		56	limb
34	material	73	Kept	73	Kept	36		57	Football
35	Variety of	74	Kept	74	Kept	37		58	dist.
36	poker	75	Kept	75	Kept	38		59	
37	Accom-	76	Kept	76	Kept	39		60	
38	panying	77	Kept	77	Kept	40		61	
39		78	Kept	78	Kept	41		62	
40		79	Kept	79	Kept	42		63	
41		80	Kept	80	Kept	43		64	
42		81	Kept	81	Kept	44		65	
43		82	Kept	82	Kept	45		66	
44		83	Kept	83	Kept	46		67	
45		84	Kept	84	Kept	47		68	
46		85	Kept	85	Kept	48		69	
47		86	Kept	86	Kept	49		70	
48		87	Kept	87	Kept	50		71	
49		88	Kept	88	Kept	51		72	

Saturday's answer 8-3



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3	4			6			5
7			5		8	4	
	2		1	6			
8	7						
3	7	4	2				
	6	9	4				
9	5	1		6			
7	5			9	3		

Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	4	3	5	2	6	8	1	7
5	8	1	7	4	3	6	2	9
6	2	7	8	1	9	3	4	5
4	7	9	3	5	2	1	6	8
8	3	5	6	9	1	2	7	4
2	1	6	4	8	7	9	5	3
3	9	2	1	7	5	4	8	6
1	5	8	9	6	4	7	3	2
7	6	4	2	3	8	5	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

8/03

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ABORIGINES OF NORTH AMERICA

Solution: 9 letters

S	E	U	S	S	I	E	N	T	W	O	R	K	C
L	S	D	S	E	A	L	S	E	U	L	A	V	W
T	S	F	I	T	B	T	E	P	N	N	P	G	A
E	S	I	E	V	A	I	V	A	U	T	S	H	N
E	M	U	O	I	E	T	R	C	S	C	T	S	O
R	N	O	R	U	H	R	E	T	E	H	O	I	M
U	A	F	C	T	Q	C	S	J	G	C	T	O	V
T	V	U	A	N	U	O	E	I	I	U	R	A	E
L	A	N	D	R	I	R	R	E	T</				

Phelps sets world record, beats Cacic in 100 fly



ROME (AP)—Michael Phelps beat Milorad Cacic again. No doubt about it. With a defiant performance in a supposedly inferior suit, Phelps stayed close over the outward lap and rallied on the return to become the first swimmer to break 50 seconds in the 100-meter butterfly, beating the Serbian with a time of 49.82.

Cacic also broke 50 seconds, but 49.95 only got him a silver—and plenty of words to eat. He wasn't nearly as close as last year's Beijing Olympics, when Phelps famously won by one-hundredth of a second and Cacic always maintained that he actually touched first.

"That satisfied me a little bit," Phelps quipped with that crooked grin of his. "I set it up perfectly."

When Phelps saw his time at the Foro Italico, he hopped up on the lane rope separating him and Cacic, threw up his arms and let out a scream toward his mom and sister in the stands.

Showing as much emotion as he ever has, Phelps also slapped the water and tugged at his Speedo LZR Racer swimsuit—no doubt in reference to Cacic offering to get Phelps one of those supposedly faster polyurethane suits so he wouldn't have any excuses.

No need, Milorad.

Phelps did just fine with his own attire. "It doesn't matter what suit you wear," Phelps said. "It matters how you train."

The two rivals finally shook hands, but that was about it.

Nothing more needed to be said.

"He congratulated me and kind of smiled a bit, but I have a feeling that our battle is going to go back and forth for a while," Phelps said.

Phelps did say one thing to Phelps: "You're the man."

"He just looked at me and smiled," Cacic said. "He knows it."

In one of the most memorable events of the Beijing Olympics, Phelps pulled out an improbable victory on his final half-stroke to beat Cacic by the narrowest possible margin. Without that win, Phelps would not have broken Mark Spitz's record with eight gold medals in a single games.

Cacic has stewed over the loss ever since, believing he touched first but didn't put as much pressure on the touchpad as Phelps, who ad-libbed an extra lunge and crashed into the wall much harder. Even though all electronic and photographic evidence shows Phelps won, Cacic repeated his claims when he got to Rome.

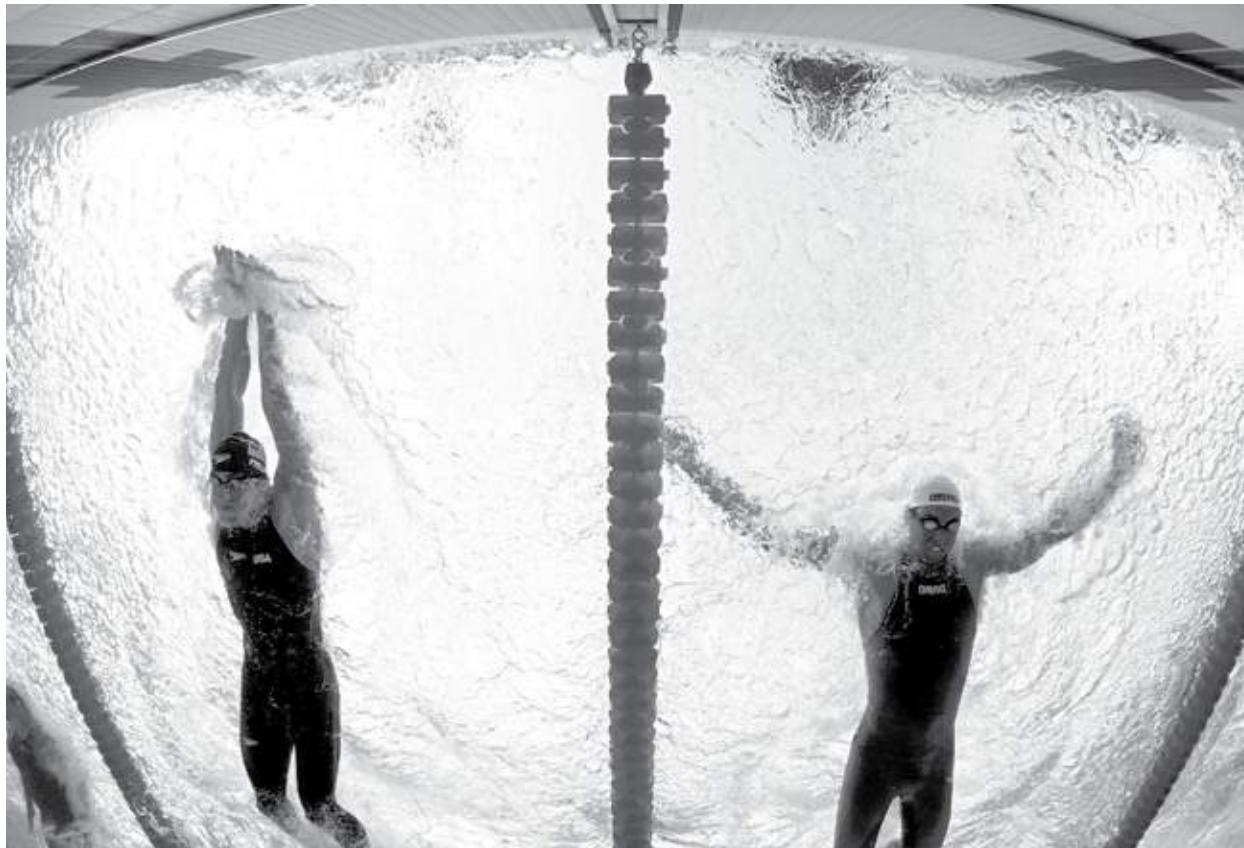
He also tried to get into Phelps' head, saying it was the American's own fault for sticking with a Speedo suit that isn't as fast as polyurethane models such as the Arena X-Glide, which Cacic wears.

The Serbian offered to get Phelps an X-Glide "within the hour," or buy him another of the rubberized suits out of his own pocket. Cacic said he would really prefer to race Phelps wearing nothing but briefs, so everyone would know who the best man is without any help from the suits.

Phelps said he would do his talking in the pool.

"He loves the big races, loves the energy," said his coach, Bob Bowman. "He sort of thrives on that, while some other swimmers don't."

Phelps set his second world record of the fastest meet in history and got



Michael Phelps of the United States, left, outsprints Serbia's Milorad Cacic to win the Men's 100m Butterfly final, at the FINA Swimming World Championships in Rome, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009. AP

back the mark Cacic snatched away a night earlier with a time of 51.01 in the semifinals.

Phelps also won his fourth gold medal of the championships, to go along with that silver he grudgingly accepted after losing to Germany's Paul Biedermann in the 200 free. Phelps has one event left—the 400 medley relay Sunday night, assuming the U.S. doesn't mess up in the morning prelims. The Americans will be a heavy favorite in that one, as always.

Three other world records were set Saturday, bringing the total to 39 with one day left at the final meet for high-tech bodysuits.

Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe took down her own mark in the 200 backstroke, winning in 2 minutes, 4.81 seconds. Russia's Anastasia Zueva also went under Coventry's old mark of 2:05.24, but 2:04.94 was only good enough for the silver. American Elizabeth Beisel claimed bronze.

China claimed the record in the women's 400-meter medley relay. Li Zhesi finished it off in 3:52.19 to beat the mark set by Australia (3:52.69) at the Beijing Olympics. The Aussies also went under the old mark, settling for silver in 3:52.58. Germany took the bronze.

The winning team also included Zhao Jing, Chen Huijia and Jiao Liuyang.

In a semifinal heat of a non-Olympic event, Britain's Liam Tancock set a world record of 24.08 in the 50 backstroke, eclipsing the mark of 24.33 held by American Randall Bal. Junya Koga of Japan also went under the previous record time to win the second heat at 24.29. The final is Sunday night.

Cesar Cielo of Brazil completed a sweep of the freestyle sprints with the 50-meter title. Cielo added to his title in the 100 with a one-lap time of 21.08 to hold off world-record holder Fred Bousquet (21.21) and fellow Frenchman Amaury Leveaux (21.25).

Managing to win world titles without world records: Australia's Marieke Guehrer in the women's 50 fly and Lotte Friis of Denmark in the women's 800 freestyle. Olympic champion and 800 world-record holder Rebecca Ad-

lington finished fourth.

After switching suits, going from Speedo to Jaked, 42-year-old American Dara Torres barely managed to qualify for the final of the 50 free. She was eighth fastest in the semifinals, claiming the final spot in Sunday's race but not giving herself much chance to duplicate her silver-medal showing at Beijing, where she lost to Germany's Britta Steffen by one-hundredth of a second.

Phelps' last individual event in Rome was a classic tortoise-versus-hare matchup, with Cacic knowing he would need a big lead at the turn, and Phelps fully aware he would have to be close enough to pull it out with his typically strong finish.

The day didn't start well for Phelps. At the warmup pool, he collided with Australian teenager Cate Campbell and broke his goggles.

"We were all a little freaked out," Phelps said. "I was kind of blurry in my left eye a little bit. But it ended up going away. I tried to really just get that out of my head."

Bowman asked if he wanted to drop out. No way.

The two rivals entered the deck with all the hype of a heavyweight fight. Cacic played right along—patting his heart, crossing himself twice and staring down Phelps as they waited to step up on the blocks. The American was facing Cacic but just looked right past him, as it he wasn't a factor.

"We face each other, but I don't look that way. I look up in the crowd," Phelps said. Still, "it's literally like a straight showdown. It's like boxers coming face to face for a weigh in. I think that's kind of cool for the sport. I think it sort of brings more excitement."

Then, they were off. Cacic knew he was in trouble when Phelps was right on his shoulder as they kicked away from the far wall, just 0.77 separating them.

"I was pretty sure I was going to be ahead at the first turn," said Cacic, who wanted to be at least a second ahead. "When I saw him right there, uh oh."

Phelps appeared to be sneaking underwater glances in Cacic's direction all

the way back, then finished in one last swoop of his arms. Bare-chested teammate Ryan Lochte, watching from the sunny side of the stands, kept screaming, "Come on!" Mom Debbie Phelps looked as though she could barely breathe as she watched the finish.

"I felt so good coming off the wall," Phelps said. "My kick off the wall felt really, really good. I saw the splash out of my left eye from his lane coming over, and I saw him getting closer and closer, and I heard the crowd getting louder and louder. I figured it was going to come down to the touch again."

Not really. Unlike Beijing, where Phelps trailed to the last possible split-second before getting ahead of a gliding Cacic, the American was clearly ahead at this finish.

He didn't even hear what Cacic had to say when it was over. The Serbian hung on the lane rope, as if wanting to make peace, but Phelps was too busy celebrating.

"I was very, very strong toward the end," Cacic said. "But Michael Phelps is Michael Phelps and he does what he does—and he did."

No doubt about it.

Odom sees multiple titles for Lakers



EL SEGUNDO, Calif.

(AP)—Even when Lamar Odom wasn't talking to the Lakers, even when Dwyane Wade was blowing up his phone during the longest July of Odom's basketball life, the Los Angeles forward couldn't honestly imagine going anywhere else.

Just a few weeks after winning his first NBA title, the Lakers' most sought-after free agent wasn't about to lose the thrill by starting over. After agreeing to a four-year contract to stay with the Lakers, he's expecting to feel it again—and perhaps again and again and again.

"I guess basketball-wise, I feel complete," Odom said during a formal signing ceremony Friday at the Lakers' training complex. "I want to feel it again."

"It's kind of an overwhelming feeling," he added. "I get goose bumps when I think about it, and as long as I continue to play professional basketball, I want to always feel that. The way I feel during the summer, I always want to feel that. If we can win six, seven, eight, nine, 10 championships in a row, I want to experience that."

With Odom's return, the Lakers will hit training camp in two months with their 15th championship team largely intact. Swingman Trevor Ariza is the only big departure, and he was replaced by Ron Artest, a friend and competitor to Odom since both were precocious preteens playing ball in various New York City leagues.

Even while Odom wasn't under contract with the Lakers in early July, he was recruiting Artest to sign with Los Angeles for most of the same reasons Odom eventually agreed to return.

"I spoke to Ron two days before he signed, and I told him how important I think it is for him to come here," Odom said. "Because I know how hard he works, he needs to experience basketball at its best, at the highest level, and he needs to become a Laker."

Two days after that, he signed."

After a cooling-off period between the team and Odom's representation ended last weekend, Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak apparently ended up signing Odom for an offer worth slightly less than his initial offer. After spending months cautioning fans to understand the realities of the NBA salary cap and luxury tax, Kupchak and owner Jerry Buss mostly managed to keep a good thing together.

"Three or four months ago, I didn't think it could be possible that we could basically bring this team back in whole," Kupchak said. "Lamar had a wonderful season that ended on the best possible note you could have, and Lamar had a lot of options. ... Here it is, July 31, and we have brought back everybody that we wanted to bring back."

Odom called the negotiations "a tedious time," but he didn't lack for attention from Miami, Portland and Dallas. He acknowledged that the Heat, particularly Wade and president Pat Riley, "were aggressive."

"Their offer was gracious, but this is where I want to play basketball," Odom said.

Odom's worth to the Lakers has always been obvious, but his willingness to embrace a reserve role during their title run made him even more valuable. He was Los Angeles' third-leading postseason scorer with 12.3 points—hitting more than 51 percent of his 3-point shots—and 9.1 rebounds despite starting just five games.

Although Odom said he could have enjoyed returning to Miami, he just couldn't see a reason to leave Los Angeles, his home for nine of his 10 NBA seasons with either the Clippers or their better-pedigreed roommates at Staples Center.

"I didn't want my kids to have to change schools—just the little things," Odom said. "I'm comfortable here. I've been here since I was 19 years old. I'm proud to be playing for what I think is the most popular brand in sports."

Tiger Woods' 65 gives him Buick Open lead



GRAND BLANC
TOWNSHIP,
Mich. (AP)—

Tiger Woods drove on adjacent fairways twice on the back nine, hit a cup of beer in a spectator's hand, got rattled by a bug and was relegated to shaping some shots around trees and under branches.

He still managed to shoot a 7-under 65 on Saturday in the third round of the Buick Open, giving him a 17-under 199 total and a one-stroke lead when Michael Letzig (68) double bogeyed the last hole.

"The whole idea of the game is put the ball in the hole, and I did that," Woods said. "But as far as controlling my ball, I didn't do that."

Woods opened his first tournament since missing the cut at the British Open with a 71 after what he said was probably his worst putting day.

When he was eight shots behind first-round leader Steve Lowery, Woods said he couldn't make up ground in one day at Warwick Hills.

It took him two.

Woods roared back into contention with a 9-under 63 in the second round and took the lead with his 65 Saturday.

"Eight back, at a U.S. Open, you can make that up in one round," he said. "You can't make it up around here."

He moved into a tie for the lead with Letzig at 17 under with a 33-foot birdie putt at No. 17.

Woods pumped his fist, shouted "Yeah!" and the traditionally rowdy gallery roared so loud he couldn't communicate with caddie Steve Williams.

"It was pretty exciting," said Woods, making his ninth Buick Open appearance. "The people here have been absolutely incredible, so supportive of this event over the years. That's one of the reasons why we love coming here."

Letzig hit a poor shot out of a green-side bunker at No. 18, barely clearing it and leaving him with a tricky lie. He fell to 16 under while Woods was on the practice range.

"I don't care," Letzig said when asked if it would be tough to forget what hap-



AP Tiger Woods hits from the sand on the sixth hole during the third round of the Buick Open golf tournament at Warwick Hills in Grand Blanc, Mich., Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009.

pened on the last hole. "I'm one shot out of the lead."

Based on history, that's probably an insurmountable deficit behind Woods.

The superstar has a 35-1 record on the PGA Tour when he has the outright lead after 54 holes. The lone loss in this situation came when he was 20 in his third tournament as a pro to Ed Fiori in the 1996 Quad City Classic.

Woods and Letzig will be in the final group on Sunday. They also played together in the final round at the Memorial in June, when Woods rallied from a four-shot deficit to win. Letzig shot 75 that day and wound up tied for 14th.

"I won't be so scared, I'll know what to expect," Letzig insisted. "I'm playing good, that's the bottom line."

If Woods wins Sunday, it would be his third Buick Open title and 69th on the PGA Tour.

Letzig, meanwhile, is hoping to win for the first time in his 50th PGA Tour event. He's coming off his first top-10 finish this year. His best showing in two seasons was a tie for second at the Ginn sur Mer Classic.

Woods has won every other tournament in his last four starts.

He missed the cut at the British Open two weeks ago after winning the AT&T National, tying for sixth at the U.S. Open and winning the Memorial. His first victory this season was the Arnold Palmer Invitational, his third tournament following an eight-month absence recovering from reconstructive surgery on his left knee.

Woods was nearly flawless in the second round at the Buick Open, then made enough clutch shots to make up for many poor ones in the third.

Woods three-putted from 55 feet on the par-5 first. He was still muttering and shaking his head about the missed opportunity on the second fairway as slammed his 3-wood into his bag and starting eating a peanut butter, jelly and banana sandwich.

At No. 5, he stepped out of his stance and kicked a bug that he later acknowledged led to him losing his concentration and sailing his tee shot to the right 237 yards away from the pin.

"I didn't refocus on the shot," Woods said. "I just got away with it."

Woods cut a shot around one tree, over a towering one and reached the green to set up a two-putt from 53 feet for a birdie.

At No. 7, he pulled out his driver that stayed in his bag for much of the day and the tee shot caromed off a cup of beer that was in a fan's hands and led to some friendly banter.

Woods hit his second shot under some tree branches and it finally landed about 300 yards away. A fantastic save out of sand set him up for another birdie.

While Woods was pleased with his results, he wasn't proud of the way he had to scramble on one of the easier courses on the PGA Tour.

"You're not supposed to be doing that," he said. "This golf course is pretty short. You have to take advantage and I did, but unfortunately, I didn't do it the correct way."



CHICAGO (AP)—
Scott Podsednik and
Gordon Beckham

had four RBIs apiece as the Chicago White Sox flogged New York 14-4 in the American League on Saturday, beating the Yankees for a third straight game.

The White Sox, who got 17 hits, scored six times in the second and added six more in the eighth.

Angels 11, Twins 6

In Minneapolis, Kendry Morales, Maicer Izturis and Juan Rivera each homered in the sixth inning as Los Angeles comfortably overcame Minnesota.

Angels pitcher Joe Saunders worked six innings, giving up four runs, to notch his first win in more than a month and help his team open its lead atop the AL West to four games.

Mariners 7, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 622nd career home run to help Seattle defeat Texas.

Griffey's three-run shot in the first came off Rangers starter Tommy Hunter, the 400th different pitcher he has homered off in his career.

W. Sox win 14-4 for hat trick over Yankees

Red Sox 4, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, Josh Beckett pitched seven scoreless innings to post his major league-leading 13th win as Boston downed Baltimore.

Beckett is 11-2 with 2.28 ERA since the start of May.

Rays 7, Royals 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, rookie Jeff Niemann pitched eight dominant innings for his 10th win, guiding Tampa Bay to a comfortable win over Kansas City.

Niemann, who struck out seven, proved his mastery of Kansas City in his second start against the Royals. In his first, he threw a scoreless complete game.

Tigers 4, Indians 3, 12 innings

In Cleveland, Ryan Raburn singled in the go-ahead run with two outs in the 12th inning and finished with three hits, lifting Detroit over Cleveland.

Indians reliever Jose Veras walked two batters to open the 12th before a strike out and a foul out. Raburn, who came in batting a meager .167 in his past 13 games, then lined a pitch to

right for go-ahead run.

Blue Jays 6, Athletics 5

In Oakland, California, Aaron Hill hit a three-run homer to help Toronto edge Oakland.

Hill also had an RBI single. Trailing 4-3, Hill hit a three-run shot in the fourth inning.

Toronto pitcher Brett Cecil gave up four runs in the second inning but retired the next 15 batters.

Braves 4, Dodgers 3

In Atlanta, Atlanta pitcher Derek Lowe beat his old side, throwing six innings in the Braves' win over the Los Angeles.

In his first game against Los Angeles since joining Atlanta, Lowe gave up just five hits to win his fourth straight decision.

Giants 2, Phillies 0

In San Francisco, Tim Lincecum won his 12th game with eight scoreless innings as San Francisco shut out Philadelphia.

Lincecum struck out eight, increasing his majors-leading season tally to 191. On Monday, he struck out 15 against Pittsburgh.

Cardinals 3, Astros 1

In St. Louis, Matt Holliday hit two solo homers to continue his fine start to life with St. Louis, as they beat Houston.

Holliday connected on the first pitch for each of his homers, hitting a drive to right in the second and a shot to center in the eighth. He also singled in the fourth and is hitting .606 with 10 RBIs in nine games since he was acquired from Oakland.

Cubs 9, Marlins 8, 10 innings

In Miami, Chicago struck out 14 times, stranded 14 runners and gave up nine walks, lost two players to injuries, blew a six-run lead, and still beat Florida.

With ace pitcher Carlos Zambrano off with a back injury and slugger Aramis Ramirez injured, the Cubs still trailed by three runs with two outs in the ninth.

Rockies 6, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, the home team fell to its fifth straight loss, beaten by Colorado.

Rockies pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez turned in his longest outing in more

than a month, throwing six shutout innings before conceding a couple of runs.

Mets 9, Diamondbacks 6

In New York, Angel Pagan hit a tie-breaking grand slam in the eighth inning as New York beat Arizona.

Pagan's first home run in two injury-plagued seasons with the Mets gave him a career-high five RBIs.

Padres 4, Brewers 2

In San Diego, Ryan Braun's outfield miscue allowed the go-ahead run to score, gifting San Diego victory over Milwaukee.

Braun misplayed a fly ball from pinch hitter Oscar Salazar, allowing a double that brought in the go-ahead run in the sixth inning.

Pirates 11, Nationals 6

In Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen homered three times and had a career-high six RBIs as Pittsburgh Pirates handed Washington a fourth straight loss.

McCutchen, a rookie, doubled his career home run total by hitting three shots to left field, with each coming off a different pitcher.

FITIAL

From Page 28

Fitrial was magnanimous in victory and thanked Chong and the rest of the Guam fighters for going up to Saipan to fight.

"I know Manny he throws a lot of leather. He's a strong fighter and you know he was a champion and I really like fighting with him. I didn't expect it to finish this early though, but sometimes somebody gets tired or gets winded but Manny put up a good fight and I thank Guam fighters coming down to Saipan and taking part in Trench Warz X," he said.

For his part, the 215-lb. Chong congratulated Fitrial for the victory and said his opponent came well prepared to fight him.

REPEAT

From Page 28

Yesterday, the weather was better, allowing golfers to finish their game as early as 11am.

"I am glad we were able to play in the second round. Although the fairways were still wet, the greens were good and the wind was a bit cooperative," said Sunga, who along with more than 100 participants played only two holes last Saturday before organizers suspended the round.

The Mangilao resident tamed the east course with his 2-under par 70 for back-to-back wins in the Championship Flight.

Saipan resident Bae Yong Man also shot a 2-under-par 70, but lost to Sunga in the sudden death playoff on hole No. 17. Sunga had a birdie on the par-4 hole,

"He was timing me at the end of my punches. He already got my timing down. Every time I was coming in, he was hitting me. So I tried to throw bombs from way outside but it wasn't connecting," he said.

As advertised, both fighters came out of their respective corners with punches flying. There was no ground fight in this one as Fitrial and Chong elected to trade punches and the occasional leg kicks.

Fitrial's speed and athleticism was evident as he repeatedly got inside Chong's defense and in more than one occasion caught his opponent with stinging jabs that rocked Chong's head backwards.

Chong, for his part, telegraphed many of his punches and his looping swings were

while Man only saved par, missing a birdie shot by four feet.

Despite the threat of another bad weather, Sunga found his victory yesterday much easier than in 2008.

"It was a bit easier this time, as we played only one round and I was much prepared this year. I've been practicing in Guam and joining several tournaments to prepare for my title defense," the 37-year-old golfer said.

The Guam golfer topped last year's Championship Flight with a two-round score of 3-over par 147. He struggled in the opening round, placing only fourth after firing a 75. An even par 72 in the second round saved Sunga the win against Korean Gi Yeong Kim, who led in the first round with his 73, but dropped to second after nailing a 75 in the second round for a total of 4-over par 148.

crushing his previous PBT of 25.81 seconds.

Staal and Wong were on Heat 9 and 8, respectively, in the qualifying races. Staal was fourth among nine swimmers on Heat 9 won by Virgin Island's Brandon Whitehurst (23.78 seconds). Wong was third on Heat 8 won by Mozambique's Patricio Vera (25.24 seconds).

Brazil's Cesar Filho Cielo posted the fastest qualifying time of 21.37 seconds, which is a new World Championship record, crushing the 21.69 seconds Roland Schoeman of Russia submitted in Montreal, Canada in 2005. France's Frederick Bosquet holds the world record in the 50m freestyle swim at 20.94 seconds logged

easily deflected by the much younger Fitrial. In one particular exchange, Fitrial came away with a flurry of punches only for Chong to react by flailing his arms, none of which connected.

As the first round was winding down, Fitrial caught Chong with a barrage of punches that had the Guamanian retreating to one of the eight sides of the octagon.

That's where Fitrial intensified his attack, unleashing punches to the head and the body against the crouching Chong and that's when D'Angelo stepped in and called an end to the bout.

If there's any consolation last Friday's loss didn't come as quickly as the one Chong absorbed against Fitrial in their first meeting in Dec 9, 2006 at "Fury" when the latter knocked out the former with 1:36 elapsed

and third, respectively.

In yesterday's game, Sunga had an even par 36 on the front nine and improved his performance by two strokes in the last nine holes with his 2-under par 34. Bae had the same front and back nines scores, but failed to get the needed break in the play-off hole to settle for the runner-up cash prize of \$500.

Completing the Top 5 were Joji Taguchi (73), Seung Woo Kang (74), and Lee Jong Won (76).

Meanwhile, majority of the winners in the other flights were visitors from Korea, Guam, and Japan.

Korea's Yun Jeong Kim ruled the Ladies Open with her gross score of 75, beating Guam's Rose Tarpley (83) and Saipan's Noriko Togawa (83). Kimiko Abe of Japan won in the Ladies Low Net, while Saipan's Lorraine Babauta and Korea's Naeun Song finished second

in Montpellier, France in April this year.

Meanwhile, the CNMI competed in its second relay event in Day 6 and set another record. Wong, Staal, Cooper Graf, and Shin Kimura joined the 4x200m freestyle relay and timed in at 8:35.74, passing the 8:45.15 they posted during the 2009 Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Guam in January this year.

In Day 1 of the tournament, the CNMI quartet timed in at 3:57.83 in the 4x100m freestyle relay, breaking the 3:58.49 mark they recorded in the JPP.

Staal finished off the 4x200m freestyle relay race for the Commonwealth and had the fastest time among the four CNMI

in the first round.

Chong said his loss last Friday will not force him into retirement and vowed to continue his checkered MMA career.

"I'll still fight. I'll go back to work at the Guam Police Department. I'm still a cop. Life still goes on," he said.

Asked what's next after his swashbuckling performance against the THUGCOP fighter, he said Fitrial would rather take on reigning PXC heavyweight champion Roque Martinez than his cousin Charleston "The Predator" Aiken, who he already has lost twice to.

"Charleston is my cousin. I don't know [if I want to fight him]. It's all up to him. I want Roque...Roque Martinez."

The win upped Fitrial's record to 19 wins against seven losses

and a draw, while the defeat dropped Chong's record to 17 wins against seven losses.

The Fitrial-Chong rematch capped an exciting, if not bloody, 10-match fight card that saw Saipan and Guam fighters winning five matches each.

In the semi main event, Fitrial's stablemate Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas defeated Team Lockdown's Eric "The Terror" Tedtaotao via doctor's stoppage at the end of the first round.

In contrast with the standup fight between Fitrial and Chong, this one was a brutal ground contest with San Nicolas turning spots of the octagon canvas into the color of crimson after he opened a cut below Tedtaotao's right eye.

Both 240-pounders came ready to fight and took turns

mounting each other. It was not on the ground that San Nicolas tilted the match to his favor though, as he caught Tedtaotao with a wicked punch to the eye during one of their exchanges that opened the aforementioned facial wound.

Despite Tedtaotao showing spunk in continuing the fight, ringside doctor Bill Weiss told him he was done during a break between the first and second rounds, giving the victory to the Marianas Elite fighter.

The win improved San Nicolas' win-loss mark 8-1, while it was the third loss in nine matches for the bloodied but unbowed Tedtaotao.

The results of the other eight fights will be published in tomorrow's edition of the *Saipan Tribune*.

out the Top 5.

Korea's Tae Sung Seol was the fifth visitor to rule a division, as he claimed first place in the A Flight. Seol carded a

4-over par 76 for a one-shot win over Saipan's Yasu Irinaka (77) and Guam's Phillip Mark Santos (77). Irinaka took the runner-up prize after beating Santos in the playoff hole.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**MLB STANDINGS****AMERICAN LEAGUE****East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	62	42	.596	—
Boston	61	42	.592	1/2
Tampa Bay	57	47	.548	5
Toronto	50	54	.481	12
Baltimore	44	59	.427	17 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	54	48	.529	—
Chicago	54	51	.514	1 1/2
Minnesota	52	52	.500	3
Cleveland	43	61	.413	12
Kansas City	40	63	.388	14 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	62	40	.608	—
Texas	58	44	.569	4
Seattle	54	50	.519	9
Oakland	44	59	.427	18 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE**East Division**

Philadelphia	59	43	.578	—
Florida	54	50	.519	6
Atlanta	53	51	.510	7
New York	50	53	.485	9 1/2
Washington	32	72	.308	28

Central Division

St. Louis	58	49	.542	—
Chicago	55	47	.539	1/2
Houston	51	53	.490	5 1/2
Milwaukee	51	53	.490	5 1/2
Cincinnati	45	58	.437	11
Pittsburgh	45	58	.437	11

West Division

Los Angeles	64	40	.615	—
Colorado	57	47	.548	7
San Francisco	57	47	.548	7
Arizona	45	59	.433	19
San Diego	43	62	.410	21 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 4, L.A. Dodgers 3	Pittsburgh 11, Washington 6
N.Y. Mets 9, Arizona 6	Chicago Cubs 9, Florida 8, 10 innings
Colorado 6, Cincinnati 2	Colorado 6, Cincinnati 2
St. Louis 3, Houston 1	St. Louis 3, Houston 1
San Francisco 2, Philadelphia 0	San Francisco 2, Philadelphia 0
San Diego 7, Kansas City 1	San Diego 7, Kansas City 1
Chicago White Sox 14, N.Y. Yankees 4	Chicago White Sox 14, N.Y. Yankees 4
Boston 4, Baltimore 0	Boston 4, Baltimore 0
Detroit 4, Cleveland 3, 12 innings	Detroit 4, Cleveland 3, 12 innings
L.A. Angels 11, Minnesota 6	L.A. Angels 11, Minnesota 6
Seattle 7, Texas 2	Seattle 7, Texas 2
Toronto 6, Oakland 5	Toronto 6, Oakland 5

BUICK OPEN SCORES

GRAND BLANC, Michigan (AP) —
Scores Saturday at the Buick Open, a \$5.1 million event at the 7,127-yard, par-72 Warwick Hills G&CC:

THIRD ROUND

Tiger Woods 71-63-65-199</p

The Week in Sports

Record-breaking week for CNMI swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four CNMI swimmers spent the week making records in the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy.

Rezne Wong, Cooper Graf, Shin Kimura, and Kai Staal started competing in Rome on July 26 and immediately buckled down to work, making several records.

Kai Staal timed in at 28.04 seconds in the 50m butterfly event to set a new age group record (15 to 16 years old) and CNMI National mark. He broke his own time of 28.73 seconds posted in June during the 2009 Guam Championships.

Wong also crushed the CNMI National mark and the 17 to 18 age group in the 100m breaststroke he set last year. The 18-year-old swimmer clocked in at 1:08.79 to erase the 1:10.21 he recorded on Dec. 27, 2008 during a meet in Guam.

Setting a record, too in Day 1 was Graf, who logged a new personal best time of 30.11 seconds in the 50m butterfly, passing his previous personal best mark of 30.92 seconds.

Graf then teamed up with Wong, Staal, and Kimura in breaking the time they set in the 4x100m freestyle relay in the 2009 Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Guam early this year. The CNMI quartet timed in at 3:57.83 in the 4x100m freestyle relay, shattering their JPP mark of 3:58.49.

In Day 2, Graf timed in at 2:12.17 in the 200m freestyle for a new personal best record. His previous PBT was 2:14.52. Kimura completed the same event in 2:13.02, smashing his personal mark of 2:15.08.

In Day 3, five more records fell with Wong adding two more in the CNMI swimming history, while his three other teammates owning one each.

Wong timed in at 31.62 seconds in the 50m breaststroke swim to rule Heat 5 and reset the CNMI National mark and age group record. He held the previous CNMI National and age group records of 32.55 seconds posted during the 2009 Guam Championships in May.

Staal was on the same heat as Wong's and clocked in at 31.90 seconds, which is a new record in the 15 to 16 age group, passing his own mark (32.32 seconds) submitted in May this year.

Graf notched his third straight personal best time after completing the 800m freestyle in 9:38.96, dropping more than 20 seconds from his previous PBT of 10:02.50. It was also a new age group record in the 15 to 16 division.

Kimura also joined the 800m race and crushed his personal best time after posting 9:40.57.

Graf and Kimura earned another best times in Day 4. Graf timed in at 1:1.30 seconds in the 100m freestyle, besting his old record by more than a second (1:02.95). Kimura competed in the same event and recorded 1:01.86 to pass his previous PBT of 1:03.26.

In Day 5, Wong completed the 200m breaststroke race in 2:26.83 seconds, shaving off more than three seconds from his previous best time of 2:30.54. It was a new CNMI National mark and age group record.

CNMI junior netter Ji Hoon Heo did not post records in New Caledonia, but continued to make a mark in the French territory with his impressive games.

Heo cruised to four successive wins, including a second-round triumph over a collegiate player in the U.S., to advance to the semi-finals of the 2009 Olympique Open at the Olympique Club Tennis Court in Noumea.

Several CNMI athletes are set to bring more pride to the Commonwealth in the next few months after expressing their readiness to represent the island to off-island tournaments.

Triathlete Joshua Manglona is one of them, as the Tinian resident will be competing in the Cook Islands Pacific Mini Games 2009 in Rarotonga in September.

Also bound for the Cook Islands is the CNMI Golf Team, which is composed of coach Jordon Kosam and players Jess Wabol, Carl Hocog, Ralph Yumul, and Ben Duenas.

In local events, the 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League feted the top team and individual performers in the six-team caging.

Still in basketball, Bayani-Shirley's secured the pennant of the masters division of the UFO caging after beating MIFICPA, 106-71, and getting its fifth win in six games.

In softball, Rubak, Salty Boys, and Peleliu joined IT&E Dolphins in the semifinals of the 2009 Belau Masters Slow-pitch Softball League after winning in the first round of the playoffs.

In the 7th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier, Advance X-Terminators boosted their chances for a semi-seat after blanking Calikano in Round 5, 10-0.

Also winning in Round 5 were Pac-Chain over Che'lus, 11-1, Kulan Zamu over Ur Balls, 3-2, SaiPal over Sufa, 14-9, and Sakudi over Saulak, 9-3.



From left Cooper Graf and Shim Kimura at the starting block of the 100m freestyle qualifying race in the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



From left, Cooper Graf, Shin Kimura, Kai Staal, and Rezne Wong pose for a group photo with coach Hiro Kimura, back row, while they watch fellow swimmers practice at the warm up pool in Rome, Italy.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's Coffee Shop general manager Susan Macario gives the opening remarks during the awards ceremony for the 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League last Tuesday at Shirley's Susupe.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMBA-Ebisuya's Dante Olivos dribbles around Cabalen defenders during their game in the masters division of the UFO caging last week at the JP Center Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ji Hoon Heo, seen here heading to the opposite court during a local tournament early this year, is in New Caledonia competing in French Tennis Federation-sanctioned tournaments.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Advance X-Terminator's J.J. Lanio catches a fly ball during their game against Calikano in the 7th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jordon Kosam is named coach of the CNMI Golf Team that will participate in next month's Cook Islands Pacific Mini Games 2009 in Rarotonga.



Record-breaking week for CNMI swimmers
Rezne Wong, Cooper Graf, Shin Kimura, and Kai Staal started competing in Rome on July 26 and immediately buckled down to work, making several records. **27**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Phelps sets world record, beats Cavic in 100 fly

Michael Phelps beat Milorad Cavic again. No doubt about it. With a defiant performance in a supposedly inferior suit.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Fitial TKOs Chong in Collision

'The Natural' stops 'The Terror,' 5-5 split in Saipan vs Guam



Saipan's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial, right, puts an arm around Guam's Manny "The Enforcer" Chong after their main event bout in Trench Warz X: Collision last Friday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall. Inset, Saipan's Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas celebrates his victory over Guam's Eric "The Terror" Tedtatao in the semi main event.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

First of a three-part series

Homegrown MMA fighter Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial proved his 2006 knockout of Guam's Manny "The

Enforcer" Chong was no fluke after scoring a TKO win over the former Pacific Extreme Championship heavyweight titleholder Friday night in Trench Warz X: Collision.

In front of a jam-packed crowd at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort, the 240-lb.

Marianas Elite fighter beat Chong into submission with a combination of strikes to the head and body in an exclusively stand-up bout, forcing referee Tony D'Angelo to stop the fight at the 4:47 mark of the first round.

See FITIAL on Page 26

Staal crushes 22-year mark in 50m freestyle

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Kai Staal added another entry to the CNMI swimming record books after posting a new national mark in the 50m freestyle swim in Day 6 of the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy.

The 15-year-old swimmer finished the 50m freestyle sprint last Friday night (Friday morning in the CNMI) in a blistering time of 25.06 seconds, passing the 22-year CNMI National record of Alex Screen and his personal best time of 25.39 seconds. Screen timed

Kai Staal added another entry to the CNMI swimming record books after posting a new national mark in the 50m freestyle swim in Day 6 of the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy.

See STAAL on Page 26



Kai Staal finished the 50m freestyle sprint in the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy last Friday in 25.06 seconds, passing the 22-year CNMI National record of Alex Screen.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, Douglas Dillay and Tyrone Omar, seen here practicing at the Oleai Sports Complex, left Saipan for Australia with 10 other CNMI athletes yesterday afternoon to compete in the Oceania Regional Championships 2009 in Queensland.

Repeat winner, visitors rule TOC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A defending champion and a couple of visiting golfers reigned supreme in the shortened 2009 Saipan Tournament of Champions.

Guam's Louie Sunga returned to Saipan and successfully defended his



Guam's Louie Sunga, left, is all smiles as he receives the top prize in the Championship Flight from 14th Annual Tournament of Champions chairman Ben Babauta during yesterday's awards ceremony at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's Crystal View Restaurant.

CNMI tracksters off to Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI Athletics Team left for Australia yesterday to compete in the Oceania Regional Championships 2009.

See CNMI on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, Douglas Dillay and Tyrone Omar, seen here practicing at the Oleai Sports Complex, left Saipan for Australia with 10 other CNMI athletes yesterday afternoon to compete in the Oceania Regional Championships 2009 in Queensland.